



Municipal Services Review

2015

City of Wasco

Prepared for:

**Kern County – LAFCO
5300 Lennox Ave. Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93309**

Prepared by:

**City of Wasco
746 8th Street
Wasco, CA 93280**

August 2015

BEFORE THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

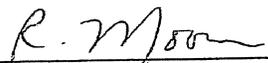
In the Matter of

AMENDMENT OF
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE:
CITY OF WASCO

:
: Proceeding No. ----
:
: Resolution No. 15-27
:
: Minute Book 62
:
:-----

I, Rebecca Moore, Executive Officer, of the LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION, COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, hereby certify that the following resolution, proposed by Commissioner McLaughlin, seconded by Commissioner Fowler, was duly adopted by the Commission at an official meeting thereof held on the 28th day of October, 2015, by the following vote:

- AYE: Couch, Fowler, Gurrola, McLaughlin, Mello, Scrivner, Wegman
- NAYE: None
- ABSENT: Rivera



RESOLUTION MAKING DETERMINATION

BEFORE THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW FOR
CITY OF WASCO

:
:
:
: Resolution No. 15-26
: Minute Book 62
:
:

I, Rebecca Moore, Executive Officer, of the LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION, COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, hereby certify that the following resolution, proposed by Commissioner McLaughlin, seconded by Commissioner Fowler, was duly adopted by the Commission at an official meeting thereof held on the 28th day of October, 2015, by the following vote:

AYE: Couch, Fowler, Gurrola, McLaughlin, Mello, Scrivner, Wegman

NAYE: None

ABSENT: Rivera



RESOLUTION MAKING DETERMINATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Sections 56430 et. seq. the Commission has caused to be prepared a municipal service review (the "MSR") for the City of Wasco.

WHEREAS, the Commission, has considered a Notice of Exemption and supporting documents.

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, the Commission heard and received all evidence which was made, presented or filed, and all persons present were given the opportunity to be heard in respect to any matter relating to the MSR; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer has given the notices required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered all factors required to be considered by Government Code Section 56430 (a) as set out in the MSR; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has otherwise duly considered the MSR and the testimony and evidence presented with regard to same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Kern as follows;

1. That the recitals set forth hereinabove are true and correct.
2. That the Commission considered the Notice of Exemption and supporting documents.
3. That the MSR including all written determinations included in the MSR is hereby approved.
4. That the Executive Officer of this Commission is authorized and directed to provide copies of this resolution in the manner provided by law.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 3062

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASCO APPROVING MUNICIPAL SERVICES REVIEW 2015, A COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE OF THE CITY OF WASCO MUNICIPAL SERVICES REVIEW

-o0o-

WHEREAS, the City of Wasco has updated the Municipal Services Review, and

WHEREAS, said update has been made in the form and manner prescribed by the State Code Section 56430 and is on file with the Community Development Department and reference is hereby made thereto for further particulars; and,

WHEREAS, said update is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to sections 15320 Changes in Organization of Local Agencies and 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution 15-08 recommending approval of Municipal Services Review 2015, a comprehensive update of the City of Wasco Municipal Services Review; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council, through its clerk, did set, Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 746 8th Street, Wasco California as the time and place of approval of Municipal Services Review 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the report of the Planning Department and all the testimony presented during said meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Wasco that it hereby finds and determines as follows:

1. **Findings of Fact:** This Council finds that the facts recited above are true and that this Council has jurisdiction to consider the subject of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Wasco adopts Municipal Services Review 2015, a comprehensive update to the City of Wasco's Municipal Services Review as reflected in Exhibit A and authorizes submittal of said document to the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

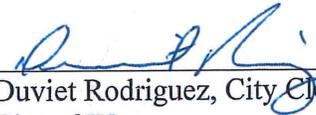
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the resolution of the City Council of the City of Wasco adopted at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, September 01, 2015, moved by Council Member Wegman and seconded by Council Member Cortez duly adopted and passed by the following vote:

AYES: Espitia, Cortez, Hively, Reyna, Wegman
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None



Danny Espitia, Mayor
City of Wasco

I, DUVIET RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk of the City of Wasco, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2015-3062 adopted by said City Council on this 1st day of September, 2015.



Duviet Rodriguez, City Clerk
City of Wasco

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction	2
1.1 LAFCO Background	2
2.0 City of Wasco	3
2.1 Administration, Management and Operations	3
2.2 Population and Growth.....	6
2.2.1 Total Population.....	6
2.2.2 Housing Inventory	6
2.2.3 Average Household Size.....	7
2.2.4 Population Projections	7
2.3 Water Delivery	8
2.4 Wastewater Collection and Treatment	12
2.5 Storm Water Drainage.....	15
2.6 Fire Protection	16
2.7 Police Services	17
2.8 Solid Waste Collection.....	18
2.9 Circulation.....	20
2.9.1 Bikeways.....	21
2.9.2 Public Transit.....	24
2.10 Parks	25
2.11 Airport	26
2.12 Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities	27
3.0 Special Districts Serving the Wasco Area	28
3.1 North West Kern Resource Conservation District	28
3.2 North Kern Water Storage District.....	30
3.3 Semitropic Water Storage District	31
3.4 Wasco Recreation and Parks District	32
4.0 Determinations for the City of Wasco	34
4.1 Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies	34
4.2 Growth and Population.....	35
4.3 Financing Constraints and Opportunities.....	35
4.4 Cost-Avoidance Opportunities	35

4.5 Opportunities for Rate Restructuring36
4.6 Opportunities for Shared Facilities36
4.7 Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities37
4.8 Government Structure Options.....37
4.9 Evaluation of Management Efficiencies37
4.10 Local Accountability and Governance38
5.0 Referenced Materials.....38
5.1 List of Preparers and Participants.....38

Figures and Tables

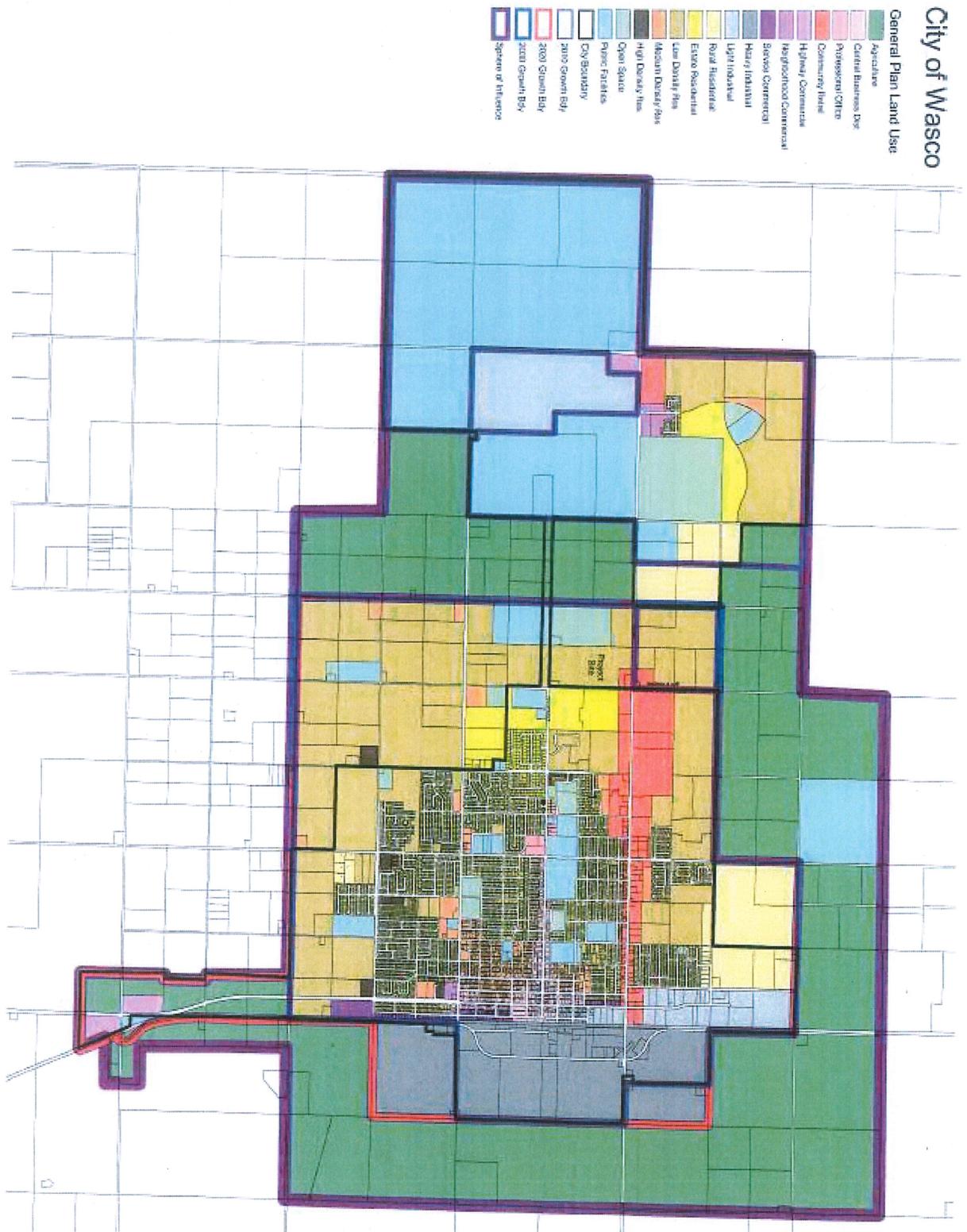
Figures

1.0 City of Wasco Zoning Map.....	1
2.1 City Wide Organizational Chart	5

Tables

2.A City of Wasco Population and Housing 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015	6
2.B Composition of Housing Stock, 2015	6
2.C Kern COGs Planning Assumptions for City of Wasco	7
2.D City of Wasco’s Water Production Capacity, 2010	8
2.E City Water Demand Based on Population Projections.....	9
2.F City of Wasco Water Distribution (excluding Agriculture)	9
2.G Current Water Rates.....	10
2.H Sewer Service Rates.....	13
2.I Current and Projected Wastewater Collected and Treated (Acre-feet/Year)	14
2.J Refuse Collection Rates.....	19
2.K Existing and Proposed Bikeway Totals	23
2.L Proposed Bicycle Facilities	23

Figure 1.0 City of Wasco Zoning Map



1.0 Introduction

This Municipal Services Review (MSR) is an update to an MSR conducted in 2005. The MSR has been prepared to assist the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) with preparation of the Services Review for the City of Wasco and special districts serving the Wasco area, in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. There is no sphere of influence (SOI) amendment or annexation proposed as part of this MSR update.

LAFCO is responsible for determining that an agency is reasonably capable of providing needed resources and basic infrastructure to serve areas within the City. This MSR evaluates the public services that are provided by the City and area service districts. The following sections examine whether the City has a reasonable plan and available resources to serve the existing City, as well as the City's existing SOI.

Municipal Services Review Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were used to develop information, perform analyses and organize this study.

1.1 LAFCO Background

On September 26, 2000, Assembly Bill 2838 (Chapter 761, Statutes of 2000), authored by Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg, was signed into California State law. This legislation, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the Act), marked the most significant reform to local government reorganization law since the 1963 statute that created LAFCOs in each California county.

The Act requires, among other things, that each LAFCO, including Kern County LAFCO, update spheres of influence for all applicable jurisdictions within the County. The Act further requires that LAFCO conduct an MSR before or at the same time as the update of the SOI. As part of the MSR, LAFCOs must compile and evaluate service-related information and make written determinations for the following factors:

- Infrastructure needs and deficiencies;
- Growth and population;
- Financing constraints and opportunities;
- Cost-avoidance opportunities;
- Opportunities for rate restructuring;
- Opportunities for shared facilities;
- Disadvantaged unincorporated communities;
- Government structure options;
- Evaluation of management efficiencies; and
- Local accountability and governance.

Each of these issues is presented in this MSR document in accordance with Government Code Section 56430 to identify and evaluate the public services provided by the City of Wasco and the districts that serve the City. Written determinations for each issue are provided within.

2.0 City of Wasco

The City of Wasco provides the following services:

- Water Delivery
- Wastewater Collection and Treatment
- Storm Water Drainage
- Roads and Circulation
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Protection
- Solid Waste Collection

2.1 Administration, Management and Operations

The City of Wasco, located in northwest Kern County along State Route 46, occupies approximately 5,466 acres or 8.54 square miles. Bakersfield, the largest city in Kern County, is 25 miles southwest, and the closest incorporated city is Shafter, which is 8 miles south. Lying within one of the most diverse and productive farming areas in the world, Wasco is relatively flat with an elevation approximately 330 feet above mean sea level. The Sierra Nevada foothills are located to the east, the Tehachapi transverse range is to the south, and the Temblor range is to the west. The primary waterways in the vicinity are the Friant-Kern Canal 5 miles to the east of Wasco and the California Aqueduct 15 miles to the west of Wasco.

Wasco is currently (Jan. 2015) home to 26,130 people as reported by the California Department of Finance. This includes the prison inmate population of 4,869 who are housed at the Wasco State Prison. The US Census Bureau's 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimate reported that the employed civilian population was 6,682.

The City of Wasco was incorporated as a General Law City in 1945. The City has a Council-Manager form of government where voters elect a five-member City Council to four-year overlapping terms. The City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor on an annual basis and appoints a City Manager to conduct the day-to-day business of the City. Figure 2.1 is a Citywide Organizational Chart. The Wasco City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Agendas are posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. In addition, the City has a Planning Commission that is appointed by the City Council. The Commission serves as a policy advisory committee to the City Council and has jurisdiction over various planning permits including Precise Development Plans, Tentative Tract and Parcel Maps, and Zone Variances. The Planning Commission meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The City has many departments, which provide municipal services to the community. These departments include Building, Engineering, Finance, Planning and Community Development, Public Works, Water, Wastewater, and Housing.

The City has adopted the following mission statement, "To provide high-quality, cost-effective, values-driven services to our citizens and in partnership with other community agencies to foster safety, unity, stability, quality of life, economic and educational opportunities, and community

pride.” The Council encourages citizens to participate in government matters and are available during regular office hours by appointment and for special activities and events. The City values public participation by hosting public outreach meetings for City projects such as: the Urban Water Management Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Urban Greening Plan and the General Plan Update.

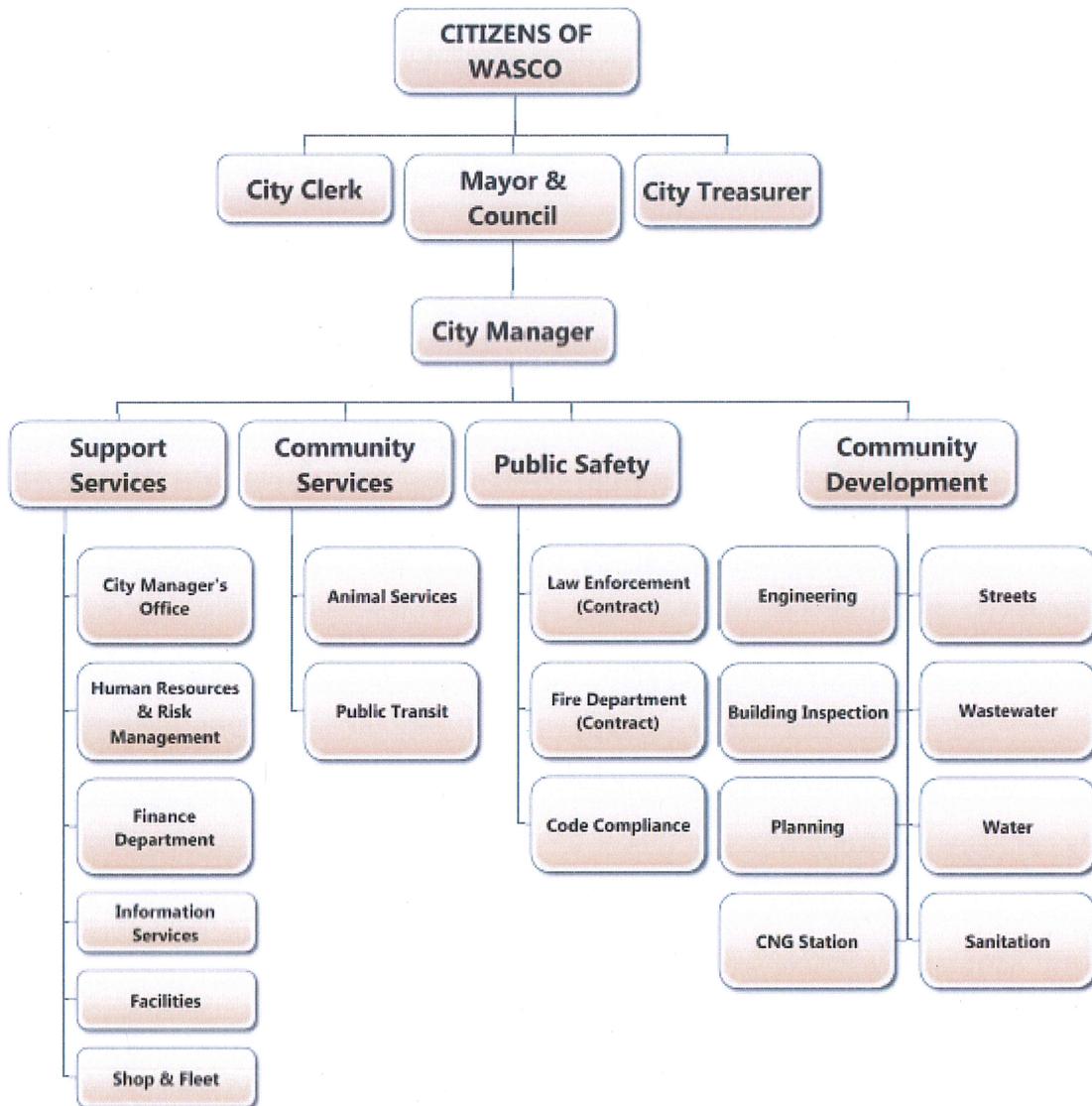
In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the City’s financial reporting system is organized on a fund basis consisting of three major fund types: Governmental, Proprietary, and Fiduciary. The City adopts an annual budget. The process begins whereby a draft budget is developed by the City Manager and City Finance Director, with input from department heads regarding their respective department budgets. The City then holds several public budget workshops with the City Council and citizens. The City Council and citizens of Wasco provide recommendations prior to the finalization of the budget. Recommendations are evaluated and a final budget is proposed to the City Council for adoption. The currently adopted budget maintains existing service levels and identifies cost-saving measures.

The City of Wasco sets rates for public services based on actual costs for these services. Existing City residents pay direct fees for water service, wastewater service, refuse service, and other municipal utility services. Infrastructure needed to support new development is provided by a combination of developer constructed facilities and through payment of impact fees, which generate funds for expanding these public facilities. Evaluation of service fees is a continuing process that the City undertakes annually during budget preparation. Prior to any rate restructuring, the City completes a comprehensive service fee analysis, which includes a cost/revenue appraisal and includes comparisons with other cities in Kern County and/or with cities within the San Joaquin Valley.

The City provides most municipal services in-house. Unless it is fiscally advantageous (such as with fire and police services), the City does not contract with the County or other special districts for major municipal services. The City believes that providing services directly allows for greater cost-control and a higher degree of responsiveness and service to the City's residents.

The City is currently in the process of a comprehensive General Plan update with a strong focus on community outreach and commercial/industrial development. The recent groundbreaking on the Walmart project is expected to help drive additional commercial development along the Highway 46 corridor. In addition to the focus on commercial/industrial development of Hwy 46, the General Plan update places a strong emphasis on the revitalization and preservation of the City’s downtown. The City plans to continue development of areas where sidewalks do not exist and has developed a Bicycle Master Plan to create and maintain a safe and logical bikeway system.

Figure 2.1 – City Wide Organizational Chart



2.2 Population and Growth

2.2.1 Total Population

The California Department of Finance estimates the 2015 population of the City of Wasco to be 26,130. During the ten year period from 2000 to 2010, the population of Wasco increased from 22,752 to 25,545, which includes the inmate population.

The City, not including the prison, grew by a total of 4,781 residents between 2000 and 2010, which is an average of 478 persons per year. During the same ten year period, the housing stock increased from 4,256 to 5,477 units, an average of 122 units per year. The City of Wasco's population exclusive of the prison population is estimated to be 21,261. Table 2.A reflects population and housing growth in Wasco between 1990 and 2015.

Table 2.A – City of Wasco Population and Housing 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015

YEAR	POPULATION	POPULATION INCREASE	PRISON POPULATION	HOUSING	HOUSING INCREASE ²
1990	12,412	-	-	3,597	
2000	21,263 ¹	8,851	6,219	4,256	659
2005	23,666 ¹	2,403	6,192	4,832	576
2010	25,545 ¹	1,879	5,720	5,477	645
2015	26,130 ¹	585	4,869	5,786	309

¹Population includes prison inmate population; prison was constructed in 1991

²Measured by number of dwellings

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates, 5/1/2014
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2011-20/view.php>

2.2.2 Housing Inventory

As shown in Table 2.B, the California Department of Finance estimates that there are 5,786 dwelling units within the City of Wasco as of 2015. Of these dwelling units, 75.4 percent are detached single-family homes. Wasco's percentage of detached single-family homes is higher than that of Kern County's.

Table 2.B Composition of Housing Stock, 2015

HOUSING TYPE	CITY OF WASCO		KERN COUNTY	
	Number of Units	Percentage	Number of Units	Percentage
Single-family, Detached	4,365	75.4%	208,257	71.1%
Single-family, Attached	193	3.3%	7,350	2.5%
2 to 4 Unit Structure	470	8.1%	29,144	10%
5 or More Unit Structure	571	10%	25,002	8.5%
Mobile Home	187	3.2%	23,021	7.9%
Total	5,786	100%	292,774	100%

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates, 5/1/2014
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-5/2011-20/view.php>

2.2.3 Average Household Size

The California Department of Finance estimates that the average household size within the City is 3.92. Wasco's population per household is high relative to the Kern County average of 3.2 and California's average of 2.95.

2.2.4 Population Projections

The most recent growth projections adopted by the Kern Council of Governments (COG) indicate that the population growth rate in the City of Wasco between 2010-2040 is estimated at 2% (732 persons annually) compared to 3.2% (531 persons annually) between 1980-2010. The prison was built in 1991 and was a major influence in the rapid population increase between 1990 and 2000.

Table 2.C Kern COGs Planning Assumptions for City of Wasco

YEAR	POPULATION	HOUSEHOLDS
1980	9,613	3,001
1990	12,412	3,471
2000	21,263	3,971
2010	25,545	5,131
2020	31,200	6,500
2030	38,100	8,200
2035	42,600	9,300
2040	47,500	10,500

Source: Kern Council of Governments Final 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (Table 3-1: Growth Trends for Kern County), Adopted Growth Forecast, June 2014

http://www.kerncog.org/images/docs/rtp/2014_RTP.pdf

2.3 Water Delivery

The City supplies all of its water from six City-owned and operated groundwater wells. The wells range in depth from 700 feet to 930 feet and range in capacity from 650 GPM (gallons per minute) to 1,700 GPM. Groundwater is drawn from the Tulare Lake Basin, Kern County Groundwater Subbasin. The City provides potable water to a population of approximately 21,261 residents. Water service is primarily domestic serving residential areas with various commercial and industrial customers. Together, the existing six wells have a 15,476 acre-feet per year combined capacity. In 2010, the City's Gross Water Demand was 4,681 acre-feet per year. The City's per capita consumption is 231.1 gallons per day as of September 2014, future projections are shown in Table 2.E. The active wells are listed in Table 2.D, which shows the well locations, current status and production capacities. Table 2.F provides the calculated produced water distribution throughout the City's service, excluding agriculture. Water for irrigation and crops is provided by the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and the Semitropic Water Storage District. Some large-scale agricultural properties maintain their own wells as a source of groundwater. The City provides recycled water to irrigate feed and fodder type crop irrigation on City-owned land.

Public water supplies must meet water quality standards established to protect the public health and to assure consumer acceptance. Monitoring and testing of the City's water supply has been carried out in accordance with applicable requirements. All active wells are sampled and tested for general mineral, general physical, bacteriological, inorganic, and organic chemical analyses in compliance with Title 22 requirements of Wasco Municipal Code. A review of historical water data indicates that the City's water generally exceeds State Department of Health Services water quality criteria.

Table 2.D – City of Wasco's Water Production Capacity, 2010

Well #	Location	PUMPING CAPACITY				
		Status	GPM (Gallons per Minute)	MGD (Millions of Gallons per Day)	AFY (Acre-Feet per Year)	PSI (Pounds per square Inch)
2	City Golf Course - Hwy 46 & Leonard	Inactive	-	-	-	-
5	City Yard – 8 th & F Street	Active	748	1.08	1205	39
6	Santa Fe – H Street between Roberts & Rouse	Inactive	-	-	-	-
7	4 th Street and Poplar Avenue	Active	905	1.30	1460	61
8	Poso Avenue between Aspen & Beckes	Active	1069	1.54	1716	61
9	16 th & G Street	Inactive	-	-	-	-
10	Iris Street & Griffith Avenue	Active	1499	2.16	2409	47
11	Oak Avenue & 11 th Street	Active	1426	2.05	2300	0
12	McCombs Avenue at future Griffith intersection	Active	1227	1.77	1971	71
	TOTAL ACTIVE CAPACITY		6874	9.90	11060	
	TOTAL STANDBY		9620	13.85	15476	

Source: 2010 City of Wasco Urban Water Management Plan

Table 2.E – City Water Demand Based on Population Projections

YEAR	POPULATION	AVERAGE PER CAPITA DEMAND (GPCPD)*
2010	19,511	214
2015	25,196	236
2020	30,881	258
2025	36,566	280
2030	42,251	302
2035	47,936	324

Source: 2010 City of Wasco Urban Water Management Plan

*Gallons per capita daily

Table 2.F – City of Wasco Water Distribution (excluding Agriculture)

CATEGORY	USAGE (AF)	PERCENTAGE
Residential	3639.00	77.74%
Non-Residential	756.00	16.15%
City Government	47.00	1.00%
Construction	7.00	0.15%
Fires	7.00	0.15%
Swimming Pools	0.04	0.00%
Leaks	225.00	4.81%

Source: 2010 City of Wasco Urban Water Management Plan

In 2010, water meters were installed on nearly all residential and commercial connections; in conformance with Assembly Bill 2572. In terms of cost to the end customer, the City of Wasco maintains a schedule of rates as shown in Table 2.G. Water quality is monitored by the Shafter Wasco Irrigation District through the Groundwater Management Plan, as well as through monitoring the groundwater wells located in the City.

Table 2.G – Current Water Rates

DESCRIPTION	CURRENT RATE ¹
Single Family 1-50 FT Frontage	\$28.81
Single Family 51-75 FT Frontage	\$31.80
Single Family 76-100 FT Frontage	\$33.55
Bakeries	\$33.55
Barbershops	\$28.81
Beauty Shops	\$33.55
Churches & Public Halls	\$28.81
Fountains, Lunchrooms, Cafes, Restaurants and Pool Halls	\$33.55
Garages and Service Stations with washracks	\$52.46
Garage and Service Stations without washracks	\$38.88
Hotels, Motels, Rooming or Lodging Houses	\$25.41 + \$4.88 per room
Laundries	\$52.46
Machine Shops	\$28.81
Offices	\$28.81
Dry Goods, Hardware, and Furniture Stores	\$28.81
Doctors and Dentists	\$33.55
Markets, Grocery and/or Butcher Shops	\$33.55
Post Office	\$38.88
More than one dwelling on residential property	\$22.39
Cabin, House Trailer or Rental	\$10.17 per unit
Dwelling and/or Apartment in Courts	\$21.72 per unit

¹Current rates are flat rates per unit.

As a result of the California drought, in August of 2014, the City began the implementation of the City's Tiered Mandatory Compliance Water Shortage Program. This program limits the days which residents are permitted to irrigate landscaping and wash vehicles, to reduce water usage in the City. This program also limits the filling and draining of swimming pools in the City and requires a permit to do so. The City established an ordinance that makes wasting water or unreasonable usage unlawful. Implementation of the Water Conservation Ordinance of the City aims to ensure sufficient water supply for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection. In addition, the General Plan update focuses on water conservation strategies to ensure the City maintains drought tolerant landscape guidelines and ordinances. The City will comply with all State and Federal laws regarding water efficiency and landscaping. New City landscaping projects will also utilize drought tolerant species. The City is currently identifying and seeking funding sources for replacing existing city landscaping with drought tolerant species wherever possible. The City intends to protect and conserve valuable groundwater resources by reducing annual daily per capita water use to 198 GPCD (gallons per capita daily) by 2020 to meet state mandates.

The City's ability to provide service to the growing community is dependent upon upgrading the water delivery system. Because of this, the City is currently working on several water infrastructure projects that will serve current needs along with the expected growth to the year 2020 (not including the Wasco State Prison population, which is served by a separate water system). The upgrades, which are detailed below, will ensure adequate service during high-demand periods. To fund these projects, the City collects a water well impact fee from new development to be used specifically for construction of new water wells. The City collects a trunk line fee for pipeline extension. Detailed below are the City's recent water service projects:

- New Well Project. A new well location is being assessed by the City to provide additional water supply.
- New 12-inch water main. This project consists of the construction of a new 12-inch water main from the 16th Street water well south along G Street to Filburn Street and then westerly to connect into the existing water main at the intersection of Filburn Street and Griffith Avenue. The project was completed in 2008. This is an upgrade project that created a loop in the water system and provides additional pressure and stability for fire flow.
- Between the years 2007 and 2008, several crucial water pipeline inter-ties were also installed throughout the City.
- This City is currently in the process of upgrading all of its wells. In order to assure a safe and reliable water supply for the residents and business owners in the service area, the City upgraded two wells (Well #7 and Well #10) and purchased a new well (Well #12) in 2009, with higher horsepower pumps to increase the amount of water being pumped. The project consisted of upgrading an existing 150 horsepower (hp) pump with a new 200 hp pump. The 150 hp pump will then be used to upgrade an existing 100 hp pump. Well #12 has a 300 hp pump.

2.4 Wastewater Collection and Treatment

Wastewater treatment involves cleaning used water and sewage so it can be returned safely to the environment or reused in place of other resources. Wastewater treatment protects public health from disease-causing bacteria and viruses and protects local and regional water quality.

The City of Wasco owns, maintains, and operates a waste water treatment plant (WWTP) located west of the community. The present WWTP was originally constructed in 1937 and has since been enlarged and/or modified on a number of occasions. In 2010/11 the City upgraded its wastewater treatment facility with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The current plant facilities consist of headworks with a Parshall flume, one mechanical bar screen, and flow meter, aerated grit chamber, two primary clarifiers, two plastic media trickling filters, two secondary clarifiers, two smaller bentonite-lined aerated ponds and one large (25 acre) unlined storage pond, three anaerobic sludge digesters, four unlined sludge drying beds, centrifuge facility and three 15-acre effluent disposal ponds. The WWTP also has a septage receiving station and laboratory, which is only used for processing sampling. The wastewater treatment facilities treat wastewater to secondary standards. The wastewater treatment plant (2014) receives total annual flows of 1.45 mgd and has a design capacity of 3.0 million gallons per day (mgd). Table 2.H explains the charges imposed upon residential, commercial and real property parcels serviced by the City.

Table 2.H – Sewer Service Rates

DESCRIPTION	CURRENT RATE ¹
Single Family	\$23.78
Apartment/Mobilehome park	\$23.78
Bakery	\$58.44
Ballpark	\$8.71
Barber & Beauty Shops	\$34.68
Bars (without dining)	\$75.91
Car Wash	\$92.34
Churches	\$15.29
Commercial Cleaners	\$129.96
Convenience Store	\$17.26
Doctor & Dentist Offices	\$30.35
Food Market (Per 1,000 SF or portion thereof)	\$7.88
Hospitals (Per Bed)	\$15.29
Hotel/Motel (Per Room)	\$13.11
Laundromats	\$298.70
Meeting or Convention Halls	\$8.71
Mortuaries w/ Embalming Facilities	\$86.67
Mortuaries w/o Embalming Facilities	\$8.71
Motion Picture Theatres	\$58.44
Office Buildings	\$8.71
Park w/wading pool	\$15.29
Pool Halls	\$58.44
Printing & Publishing	\$13.17
Auto Repair Shops & Service Stations (w/o wash racks)	\$30.35
Auto Repair Shops & Service Stations (w/ wash racks)	\$69.41
Restaurant	\$166.61
Retail Shop	\$8.71
Grammar Schools	\$9.02
High School/Junior High School	\$10.91
Public Swimming Pool	\$.83
Potato Shed	\$1.07
Septage Receiving Station (per 1,800 gallons)	\$91.50

¹Current Rate is calculated as a flat fee per unit

The major pipelines in the wastewater sewage collection system range from 6 to 18 inches in diameter. The main pipelines that carry wastewater to the treatment facilities are a parallel 15-inch and 24-inch diameter interceptor lines, which run from Broadway westerly along 7th Street, and an additional 24-inch interceptor line running west on Filburn and

north on Magnolia, carry wastewater to the treatment facilities.

The treated effluent is used strictly for non-edible agricultural practices in the reuse area. The City is permitted to discharge the treated water (approximately 1,866 acre-feet per year) to 605 acres of City-owned land surrounding the wastewater treatment facilities. The farming operation is run by local farming interests on a competitive bidding basis. Effluent generally flows by gravity with the use of booster pumps during high flows through several miles of pipeline and open ditches.

At the existing average flow rate of approximately 120 gallons per person per day the City is working on a project to expand the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant for annual flows of 4.5 mgd. The existing plant's headworks have a capacity of 6.0 mgd. Hence, a plant expansion to 4.5 mgd capacity is possible and the design is complete. The present 3.0 mgd capacity can accommodate up to the demand of 25,000 residents. The proposed expansion to 4.5 mgd could accommodate up to 37,500 residents. It is important to note that all existing and future demands on the City's wastewater treatment plant exclude the Wasco State Prison which operates an independent wastewater disposal system.

Table 2.I – Current and Projected Wastewater Collected and Treated (Acre-feet/Year)

YEAR	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Wastewater Collected and Treated	1,899	1,866	3,246	3,978	4,710	5,443	6,175
Quantity That Meets Recycled Water Standards	1,899	1,866	3,246	3,978	4,710	5,443	6,175

Source: 2010 City of Wasco Urban Water Management Plan

As part of the wastewater treatment plant expansion, the City plans to construct the facilities necessary to reliably transfer final effluent to the City owned farmland and to the existing and new percolation/evaporation ponds. The effluent reclamation facilities include the addition of a new effluent pump station, 2.8 miles of new 24 inch diameter effluent pipeline leading to the existing and new ponds, and 1,200 linear feet of 12-inch diameter effluent pipe leading to 55 acres owned by the city that currently can only be irrigated with irrigation water.

2.5 Storm Water Drainage

According to the Kern County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan [MHMP] (July 2012), four different types of flood events affect Kern County including flash, riverine, canal breach, and urban storm water. Regardless of the type of flood, the cause is often the result of severe weather and excessive rainfall, either in the flood area or the upstream reach of tributary drainages.

Wasco is located in the Valley Region of Kern County. The two major flood sources in this portion of the county are the Kern River and Poso Creek. The Kern River is about 30 miles south of Wasco and its flood plain area has no impact on the City. Poso Creek is a major watercourse that flows northwesterly through Kern County and is located northwest of Wasco. Precipitation on this watershed (which covers more than 250,000 acres) ranges from 6 to 30 inches annually.

Flood zone mapping prepared by FEMA indicates that only a very small portion of land in the eastern part of the city is located within a 100-year flood zone and a very small area along the City's northern Sphere of Influence border is also located within the 100-year flood zone. As such, Wasco is at minor risk of a 100-year flood. An inventory of the City's Assessed Valuation of Improved Properties shows that of the 4,306 total properties located within city boundaries, seven properties (six classified as "industrial," one classified as "other") are within the 100-year flood zone.

There has not been a significant history of flood events associated with severe weather in Wasco. While flooding is a considerable problem in some areas of Kern County based on past events and the probability of future damaging events, the severe weather flooding risk to Wasco is considered to be minor.

Flood hazards of greatest concern in the city are related to urban stormwater, which are dependent on storm drain infrastructure. The most predominant stormwater issue is located along 7th Street. Areas along this roadway can flood during heavy rain events. To address this condition, the City has initiated storm drain improvements along the roadway to reduce flooding impacts. In addition, the City requires on-site retention of stormwater for new developments to minimize additional burden on the city's storm drain system.

2.6 Fire Protection

The Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) is a county organization that provides fire protection services to citizens living in the City of Wasco. Their mission is, “To proudly serve our communities by protecting life, property and environment through effective education, prevention, preparedness and emergency response.” KCFD provides the following emergency, educational and preventative services to citizens of Wasco:

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Services
- Hazardous Materials Mitigation
- Fire Prevention
- Rescue
- Air Operations
- Training and Public Education
- Arson Investigation
- Apparatus Maintenance

Services by KCFD are based out of Station 31 located at 2424 7th Street. Nine firefighters are assigned to this station and work in three-man shifts. Equipment includes two Type 1 Fire Engine, Type 1 OES Water Tender, and one Type 4 Patrol unit. The total response area is 157.4 square miles. The maximum time of arrival to any Wasco emergency is less than ten minutes. The Wasco State Prison has its own fire department, which responds to all fire and related responses and services at the prison.

The City’s fire portion of property taxes goes to the County to fund fire protection services. The City’s policies, which are contained within the Wasco General Plan, will ensure that the City’s provision of fire services remain adequate with the growth rate of the City.

2.7 Police Services

In 1981, the City of Wasco entered into a contract with the Kern County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services on a 24-hour a day basis within the City limits. In addition to law enforcement services, Sheriff's deputies provide a full range of traffic safety services. The Sheriff's department also has the responsibility for the jail system, providing bailiff and prisoner transportation services, search and rescue, coroner services, and civil process.

The Sheriff's Department serves the City from the Wasco City Substation, which is located at 748 F Street in Wasco. Current staffing of the substation consists of eighteen deputies, four senior deputies, two sergeants, the area commander, six clerks, and an aide who handles civil process. Wasco was the third City in the State to impose a parcel tax to fund police services. Because of this parcel tax, the City will be able to provide funding for additional personnel and equipment, which will maintain police service levels as the City grows. The City of Wasco established the standard of one officer per 1,000 residents when evaluating police protection services.

On July 1, 2010, the Wasco City Council approved a five year contractual agreement with the Kern County Sheriff's Department for continued service provision. This contract was renewed in June 2015 for another year and is anticipated to be renewed annually. This would provide the County financial assurance that the City and County service arrangement will continue into the future. Substation improvements are currently underway, which will provide added police visibility in the community. The Sheriff's Department has consistently used servicing the City of Wasco as experience for officers who may desire to move up in rank.

2.8 Solid Waste Collection

The City of Wasco provides solid waste services within the City limits. The City owns its own refuse trucks and collectors are employees of the City. Most residential customers receive once a week refuse pick up; however, some residential customers share waste bins with neighbors and receive pick up twice per week. Commercial customers receive collections either two or five times per week depending on the type of business and rate of solid waste generation. Trash collection is mandatory throughout the City.

The solid waste that is collected within the City is hauled to the Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill, which is operated by the Kern County Waste Management Department. This facility is a Class III landfill that accepts construction/demolition waste, dead animals, and mixed municipal refuse. The Shafter-Wasco Landfill, located at 17621 Scofield Avenue, in Kern County, encompasses 357 acres, off of Lerdo Highway. The landfill is currently permitted to accept 1,500 tons of waste per day. The Shafter-Wasco Landfill's permitted capacity is approximately 22 million cubic yards. This landfill's estimated closure date is February 2059.

In 2013, the City of Wasco disposed of 18,326 tons of solid waste. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) shows that the solid waste disposal generation factor for the City of Wasco is 3.9 pounds per resident per day and 16.3 pounds per employee per day.

In February 2002, the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) adopted a diversion rate of 50 percent for the year 2000. This diversion rate remains. Diversion rates are defined as the percentage of total solid waste that a jurisdiction diverted from being disposed in landfills through reduction, reuse, recycling programs, and composting programs. Per the CIWMB, the City of Wasco has reached this goal and had a 56 percent diversion rate in 2002, which is the most recent data posted.

The ability to dispose of solid waste for the City of Wasco is tied to available landfill capacity and the compliance with CIWMB diversion rate of 50 percent. As indicated previously, the capacity of the landfills is planned to accommodate future solid waste disposal needs for the region through February of 2059.

The City of Wasco has made conscious efforts to reduce waste generation by purchasing iPads to eliminate the need to reproduce hard copies of City Council agendas. The City also has a mandatory residential curbside green waste service. Green waste is picked up every week in 96 gallon cans with automated trucks. Senior citizens have the option of obtaining a 65 gallon can. Green waste is combined with commercial green waste and used as alternative daily cover, mulch, and some is biomassed. The County of Kern has installed a tumbler in order to assist in the separation of green waste, thereby increasing overall recycling.

At this time, commercial recycling is voluntary. Residents utilize two primary haulers: Sunset Waste and American Refuse. Sunset Waste is utilized by the City for all of its recycling efforts and local tire recycling and construction/demolition recycling is done by American Refuse.

Table 2.J reflects collection rates for basic refuse collection services:

Table 2.J – Refuse Collection Rates

TYPE OF SERVICE	COST OF BASIC SERVICES
Carts (Residential, small business)	\$25.36 (90 gal refuse & 90 gal green waste)
BINS (Multi-family, commercial)	\$203.53 (3 yard bin twice/week)
	\$508.82 (3 yard bin five times/week)
	\$101.77 (300 gallon container twice/week)
	\$254.42 (300 gallon container five times/week)

2.9 Circulation

The City is currently in the process of updating the General Plan. The General Plan update places a strong emphasis on developing an integrated multimodal circulation network designed to connect residents in Wasco, to promote safety for users of the transportation system and to ultimately increase the quality of road infrastructure.

The current regional circulation network for the City of Wasco includes designated trucking routes, rail, and State Routes 46 and 43. In addition, arterial and collector streets provide circulation between and through neighborhoods and activity centers within the City limits. The City has approximately 282 acres of right-of-way (roads, highways, railroads, etc.) and every house and business has direct access to a paved road. There is very little traffic congestion within the City limits of Wasco and the surrounding area. This is primarily due to Wasco's size and rural environment. The interchanges at State Route 99/State Route 46 and State Route 99/Kimberlina Road are also uncongested. A level of service (LOS) C is established by the General Plan update as the minimum acceptable service for the City by the General Plan. A LOS D is acceptable in the Central Business District and the 7th Street Corridor from Palm Avenue to State Highway 43.

Collector roadways include Poso Avenue, Palm Avenue, Filburn Street, Central Avenue and 7th Street. These streets are generally one wide lane in each direction with on-street parking. Two-way left turn lanes and bike lanes are present intermittently. There are very few traffic signals in the City of Wasco, all located along State Highway 46.

Much of the city developed when new subdivisions were being constructed with cul-de-sacs on residential streets. Many such street hierarchies significantly increase the distance for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel to reach their destinations. However, many neighborhoods in Wasco use neighborhood connectors where pedestrian pathways continue from the end of a street, reducing traveling distance and providing more possible route choices. Such foresight significantly improves pedestrian and bicycling conditions in the city.

In addition, there is a short pedestrian and bicycle path located near Palm Avenue Elementary School, extending from 9th Street to 9th Place as a continuation of Peters Street. Alleys of varying length reduce reliance on on-street parking in the city and provide additional pedestrian connectivity.

Wasco has a fairly well-established grid network, providing multiple options for both motorists and cyclists. However, sidewalks are not consistently provided. Other parts of the city are less connected, posing challenges to bicyclists looking for alternative routes.

One challenge that affects many locations throughout the city is that despite having a well-integrated grid street network, many blocks in Wasco are unusually long. Near Thomas Jefferson Middle School, the block between Birch Avenue and Griffith Avenue is 600 feet, and the block between 2nd Street and 4th Street is 650 feet. Large block lengths produce less "side friction" for drivers, increasing traffic speeds, and encourage midblock crossings by increasing distance between crosswalks. Near Teresa Burke Elementary School, there is a quarter mile between

marked crosswalks across Filburn Street, and many students and parents choose to cross at an uncontrolled location. The City recently received approximately 3.5 million dollars in Active Transportation funds to install bike and pedestrian improvements near existing school sites.

The General Plan update strives to maintain and adopt the following design standards for all roadway classifications in order to fulfill plan objectives and goals:

- Arterials (110' right-of-way) are continuous divided streets intended to provide for the efficient movement of through traffic. Arterials should be designed with few intersections. Direct access to abutting properties should be limited, except for large commercial or industrial uses where access lines up with streets across the arterial, and where consistent with minimizing breaks in through traffic movement. Arterials should not penetrate residential neighborhoods. To the greatest extent possible, Arterial street facilities shall include Class 1 multi-use bicycle / pedestrian paths. At a minimum, all arterial street facilities shall include ADA compliant sidewalks, curb ramps and Class 2 bicycle lanes.
- Collectors (86' – 104' right-of-way) are continuous streets intended to collect and distribute traffic from local streets onto arterials. Depending upon the volume of traffic, the collectors will need to carry, collectors can be two lane roadways with an 86' right-of-way, up to a four-lane divided roadway with a painted median and a 104' right-of-way. Only two-lane collectors should be permitted to penetrate into residential neighborhoods. To the greatest extent possible, all collector street facilities shall include Class 2 bicycle lanes. At a minimum all collector street facilities shall include ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps.
- Local Streets (54' to 62' right-of-way) provide access to abutting properties and are designed to discourage through traffic within residential neighborhoods. Within residential neighborhoods, local streets will have 54' to 62' rights-of-way, depending upon the amount of traffic the road is intended to accommodate. Where appropriate, through local streets shall be designated as Class 3 bicycle routes. At a minimum all local street facilities shall include ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps.

Besides maintenance of City streets, future improvements to City streets will ultimately include school traffic improvements and bicycle infrastructure to facilitate walking and bicycling for transportation and recreation – supporting an active, healthy, community. The City will annually update the fee structure and continue to implement the City's traffic impact fee program to cover long-range capital improvement expenditures. The City will also continue to apply for grant opportunities to implement and develop objectives outlined in the Bicycle Master Plan.

2.9.1 Bikeways

In the State of California, bikeways are classified according to three different types. These include Class I multi-use paths, Class II bike lanes, and Class III bike routes. Each facility type plays a different role in the bicycle network. While bike lanes generally provide a separated facility for streets with higher motor vehicle speeds and volumes, Class I and Class III facilities

can be part of a “low-stress” network that appeals to inexperienced bicyclists, including children. The three types are illustrated and described below:

- Class I multi-use paths provide for bicycle and pedestrian travel on a paved right-of-way completely separated from roadways. These facilities are typically used by recreational and casual bicyclists. Commuting bicyclists will also use Class I facilities that provide access to work or school.
- Class II bicycle lanes provide a signed, striped and stenciled lane for one-way travel on a roadway. These facilities are typically used by commuting bicyclists and bicycle enthusiasts. Casual bicyclists will also use Class II facilities if traffic speeds and volumes are relatively low. Class II bicycle lanes are often recommended on roadways with moderate traffic volumes and speeds where separation from motorists can increase the comfort of bicyclists.
- Class III bicycle routes provide for shared roadway use and are generally identified only by signs. These facilities may have a wide travel lane or shoulder that allow for parallel travel with motorists. A network of Class III bicycle routes provides low-traffic alternatives where bicyclists will be sufficiently comfortable that no formal separation from motor vehicle traffic is desired.

Two existing Class I multi-use paths in Wasco provide a separated path for bicyclists. They are located on the north side of Filburn Avenue. One connects Griffith Avenue and Poplar Avenue, and the other begins at Palm Avenue and extends west, stopping short of Central Avenue. Extending this path in both directions would improve bicycling conditions along the corridor. Four existing bikeways (all Class II bike lanes) within the City provide protected right-of-way for bicyclists. These are:

- Poso Drive- Palm Avenue to Broadway.
- North side of Filburn Street- Poplar Avenue to Broadway.
- State Highway 43 south of Poso Drive.
- Central Avenue south of 7th Street.

In addition, there is a short pedestrian and bicycle path located near Palm Avenue Elementary School, extending from 9th Street to 9th Place as a continuation of Peters Street. Alleys of varying length reduce reliance on on-street parking in the city and provide additional pedestrian connectivity. However, some residents have personal safety concerns when using these facilities.

The City adopted a Bicycle Master Plan in 2014 which recommends over 23 miles of bikeways to the City of Wasco in a connected network of off-street paths and on-street bike lanes and bike routes. The recommended facilities provide connections to major destinations within Wasco and provide alternatives that accommodate bicyclists of all ability levels. Table 2.K summarizes new bikeways added to this Plan.

Table 2.K: Existing and Proposed Bikeway Totals

	EXISTING	PROPOSED	TOTAL
Class I	0.61	1.41	2.02
Class II	2.33	14.83	17.16
Class III	0.00	7.53	7.53
All Types	2.94	23.76	26.70

The Bicycle Master Plan identifies the following bike paths and proposes them to be developed in three phasing tiers. Projects will be completed over the next twenty years. Table 2.L reflects the bikeway projects intended to be developed by the City.

Table 2.L: Proposed Bicycle Facilities

LOCATION	START	END	MILES
6th Street	D Street	J Street	0.56
Broadway	Highway 46	Filburn Avenue	1.50
Griffith Avenue	Highway 46	5th Street	0.31
Palm Avenue	Gromer Avenue	Filburn Avenue	2.00
Poso Drive	Central Avenue	G Street	0.86
5th Street	Griffith Avenue	D Street	0.22
7th Street	Magnolia Avenue	D Street	1.72
9th Place	Beckes Street	D Street	0.97
D Street	5th Street	Filburn Avenue	1.19
Poplar Avenue	Highway 46	Sunset Avenue	0.66
5th Street	Griffith Avenue	Woodside Drive	0.97
Beckes Street	Highway 46	Camellia Street	1.22
Central Avenue	Highway 46	7th Street	0.50
Filburn Avenue	Highway 43	Central Avenue	0.99
Filburn Ave Path	Palm Avenue	Highway 43	0.65
Filburn Ave Path	Griffith Avenue	Broadway	0.16
E Street	Highway 46	6th Street	0.41
Filburn Ave Path	Central Avenue	700' West of Beckes Street	0.14
G Street	6th Street	Poso Drive	0.59
N. Griffith Avenue	Gromer Avenue	Highway 46	0.50
Poplar Avenue	Sunset Avenue	Filburn Avenue	0.84
1st Street	Peters Street	E Street	0.92
Central Avenue	Via Morocco	400' South of Flower Street	0.43
Central Avenue	400' South of Flower Street	City Limits	0.51
Central Ave Path	Poso Drive	Filburn Avenue	0.51
Griffith Avenue	Filburn Avenue	Jackson Avenue	0.50
Highway 46	Magnolia Avenue	Highway 43	2.19
Krista - Via Morocco Route	Central Avenue	Beckes Street	0.28
Gromer Avenue	Palm Avenue	Griffith Avenue	0.50
Jackson Avenue	Palm Avenue	Griffith Avenue	0.50
Palm Avenue	Filburn Avenue	Jackson Avenue	0.50

2.9.2 Public Transit

The City of Wasco does not have a fixed-route transit system in town, but does operate a dial-a-ride service. The service operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM and picks up passengers at their current location and drops them off at their destination. This service requires a thirty to forty five minute advanced notice. It cannot operate outside the City Limits. Bicycles are not permitted aboard the bus.

An Amtrak station at 7th Street and G Street near the city center provides regional transit connections and serves as a local transit station for the North Kern Express Regional Transit buses. The Amtrak station is part of the San Joaquin line that connects the Bay Area and Sacramento to Bakersfield. It has six departures daily in each direction. North Kern Transit provides connections to Lost Hills, Delano and Bakersfield.

2.10 Parks

The City of Wasco owns 31 acres of designated parks and open space. The remaining park space is owned by the Wasco Recreation and Parks District, which owns 24 acres and the Wasco School Districts which own about 50 acres of recreational space. The Wasco Recreation and Parks District manages all parks, maintenance, and recreational programming. The General Plan update set the following minimum standards for neighborhood and community park facilities:

- Neighborhood Parks: 2.5 acres/1,000 residents
- Community Parks: 3 acres/1,000 residents
- Total Combined: 6 acres/1,000 residents

The two school districts hold a significant portion of open space assets in Wasco, but most of these facilities are not available for public use, therefore the City's General Plan standard for parks has a deficit of 3.33 acres per 1,000 residents. In order for the City to meet its 6 acre per 1,000 resident standard, the City of Wasco needs an additional 69 acres of parkland. The General Plan update and the City of Wasco's Urban Greening Parks and Open Space Master Plan aims to develop a collaborative relationship between the Wasco Recreation and Parks District on a long term strategy to acquire and develop new neighborhood and community parks in underserved areas. It also aims to facilitate a working partnership between the Wasco Union Elementary School District, Wasco Union High School District, Wasco Recreation and Parks District and the City of Wasco to promote joint use of recreation facilities.

In order to provide and acquire the additional 69 acres of parkland to meet general plan standards for park facilities, the City intends to continue collection of Quimby and Development impact fees in accordance with State law and City Municipal Code. It also intends to assist and support the Wasco Recreation and Parks District with grant writing services for the purchase and development of new park sites as well as the improvement of existing park sites.

2.11 Airport

The Wasco-Kern County Airport is publicly owned and operated by the Kern County Department of Airports. Wasco Airport is located at the intersection of McCombs Avenue and Palm Avenue, 1 mile north of Wasco and 22 miles northwest of Bakersfield, and services agricultural, flight training, business, and personal aviation needs in the area.

There are approximately seven aircraft based at the airport which average 27 aircraft operations per day. Roughly 80% of airport operations are local general aviation, 10% of operations are transient general aviation, and 10% of operations are air taxi. The airport supports single-engine, propeller aircraft. The airport is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems and is classified as a general aviation airport.

The City of Wasco supports the development of the airport and has strived to maintain compatibility between airport operations and surrounding land uses in its jurisdiction.

2.12 Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

On October 7, 2011, Governor Brown signed SB 244, which makes two principal changes to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. SB 244 requires LAFCOs to deny any application to annex to a city territory that is contiguous to a “disadvantaged unincorporated community” (DUC) unless a second application is submitted to annex the DUC as well. It also requires LAFCOs to evaluate DUCs in an MSR upon the next update of a sphere of influence after June 30, 2012. An MSR is required to address the existence of DUCs which are located within or adjacent to City limits. These DUC islands typically occur when these communities are left out of annexations in which more desirable properties are annexed and the less desirable areas are excluded from the process.

SB244 defines DUCs as any area with 12 or more registered voters and with a median household income of less than 80% of the statewide annual median. Based on this definition, the City of Wasco does not have any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or adjacent to the City’s sphere of influence. Areas within and adjacent to the City’s sphere of influence are vacant land primarily used for agricultural farmland or residential homes.

3.0 Districts Serving the Wasco Area

In addition to the City of Wasco, the following agencies provide services to the residents and businesses within and adjacent to the City and its SOI. Therefore, the following Districts will be analyzed within this Municipal Services Review:

- North West Kern Resource Conservation District
- North Kern Water Storage District
- Semitropic Water Storage District
- Wasco Recreation & Parks District

The following additional agencies overlap the Wasco service area boundaries. However, LAFCO has advised the City of Wasco that other MSRs have provided, or are in the process of providing reviews of these agencies and are therefore not included in this MSR:

- Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
- Kern County Cemetery, District #1
- Kern County Water Agency
- Kern County Mosquito and Vector Control District
- Cawelo Water District

The following is a discussion of the affected local agencies pursuant to Government Code Section 56430. The discussions include general descriptions of the service territory, an analysis of the service evaluation factors required by the Act, a brief description of the agency/district purpose, and source of revenues.

3.1 NORTH WEST KERN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Pond-Poso Resource Conservation District (RCD) was authorized by the Kern County Board of Supervisors on June 16, 1969. The Shafter-Wasco RCD was organized by public referendum on July 12, 1960, and the Kern County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution authorizing the district on July 25, 1960. On March 31, 1980, the Pond-Poso RCD and the Shafter-Wasco RCD consolidated as the Pond-Shafter-Wasco RCD. On November 30, 2004, the Kern County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution authorizing the formation of the North West Kern RCD through the consolidation of the Buena Vista RCD, the Western Kern RCD, and the Pond-Shafter-Wasco RCD.

North West Kern RCD consists of 594,360 acres. The eastern area encompasses the lower reaches of Poso Creek. Starting in the general areas of Knob Hill on the south and Mt. Poso on

the north, Poso Creek runs through the entire district in a northwesterly direction and outlets into the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. The western portion of the district is bounded by San Luis County in the north western portion of Kern County. The north is bounded by Kings and Tulare Counties. The southern part of the RCD reaches almost all the way to Taft.

The District currently has four employees. The purpose of the District is to provide irrigation water management to farmers in and adjacent to Kern County. The North West Kern RCD provides technical assistance and focuses on the following objectives:

- Continue to implement Irrigation Mobile Lab Program.
- Reduce soil erosion on lands within the District.
- Reduce flood damage in upstream areas.
- Influence land use decisions with units of governments by responding to consultation notices.
- Monitor water quality within the District.
- Provide technical assistance to landowners, developers, and planners.
- Provide follow-up assistance to cooperators of the District.
- Encourage landowners to become cooperators of the District.

The Conservation District's workshops and demonstration programs that deal with water conservation techniques on farms and the use of the mobile irrigation labs are key elements in the District's conservation strategies and are an effective way in which the agency reaches out to the public.

The District has a Master Plan that was adopted in 1999. The document establishes goals in working with land owners to help them with irrigation management. The focus of the plan is to continue to operate the mobile lab, work with soil and water issues in conjunction with the USDA, and work with landowners in the Poso Creek watershed to maintain facilities.

The North West Kern RCD's annual report and the annual work plan are documents that are prepared to evaluate the District's yearly operations. The District is also required to report to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), from which the District has a maintenance agreement for an unimproved portion of Poso Creek.

The District has a particular niche within the County and does not duplicate services of other agencies. There is no other agency within Kern County that provides the service that the District's lab provides throughout the year. To best utilize resources, the District shares a facility with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Bakersfield. The NRCS provides the office space and supplies and the North West Kern RCD provides a secretary for

both agencies to use. The District does have additional partnership needs. Poso Creek has periodic flooding. The District would like to partner with a flood district with a revenue source to maintain the creek banks and flood levees. Currently, cooperation with the local water districts has helped to address flood issues.

Revenue sources for the District are through grants, local water district contributions and fee for service to the landowners that utilize the services of the Irrigation Mobile Lab.

The District does not foresee any particular opportunities to streamline or improve the provision of service through reorganization of any service providers.

The District is governed by a Board consisting of seven Directors. The Board of Directors meets regularly the second Wednesday of the month at Don Perico's in Shafter, CA. An agenda is posted prior to each meeting and all Board meetings are open to the public.

3.2 NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

The North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD) is primarily an agricultural water district with a relatively small number of water customers and landowners. The NKWSD was formed in 1935 under Division 14 of the California Water Code, Section 39000 et al. The NKWSD currently encompasses approximately 60,000 acres with general boundaries being to the west of State Route 99, east of State Route 43, north of Bakersfield and south of McFarland. At the time of NKWSD formation, the boundaries were located north of 7th Standard Road. In 1967, the boundaries expanded when the District annexed 10,400 acres, known as Rosedale Ranch Improvement District, which is primarily located south of 7th Standard Road.

The NKWSD currently has 30 employees. The NKWSD has access to "pre-1914" Kern River water rights which provide the vast majority of the District's water supply. NKWSD also works with other districts on water exchanges and banking, in addition to other water programs that benefit the area. The overall goal or policy objective of the NKWSD is to operate and economically enhance existing NKWSD projects and water rights. The NKWSD is responsible for operation and maintenance of NKWSD facilities, including the canals which traverse NKWSD boundaries. At the time of this service review, the NKWSD does not have a Capital Improvement Program or a Master Plan.

Because urban growth within the NKWSD boundaries may encroach upon canals, the NKWSD requires landowners and developers to fence facilities, or to identify places where canals can be relocated and, in some cases, to enclose the canal facilities in pipelines.

The NKWSD is funded by assessments and water sales. In 2014 lands within the original boundaries of the NKWSD (the area north of 7th Standard Road), received annual assessments of between \$110/acre and \$124/acre to cover the District's fixed costs of operations. Additionally, landowners pay per acre-foot water tolls for water delivered by the District. In 2014 annual assessments for landowners within the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District portion of the NKWSD were \$22.40/acre. Assessments for parcels less than 5 acres in size

appear on each landowner's property tax bill. Assessments for parcels larger than 5 acres are billed directly by NKWSD.

Operating revenues increased by 55 percent between 2013 and 2014, while operating expenses remained relatively unchanged during the same time period. NKWSD's finances have been impacted by the severe drought and lack of availability of surface water supplies. As a consequence, in 2014 the District altered its methods of recovering its costs of operations and through a Proposition 218 election District landowners approved increases in the District's assessment authority. The Rosedale Ranch Improvement District portion of the NKWSD had relatively stable finances for 2013 and 2014.

3.3 SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

The Semitropic Water Storage District is located in north-central Kern County in the San Joaquin Valley, about 20 miles northwest of the City of Bakersfield. The District comprises approximately 220,000 acres, with about 140,000 acres irrigated. There are no cities within the District's boundaries; however, some of the District's land overlaps land owned by the Wasco State Prison and the District's office is located in the City of Wasco on Central Avenue. The predominant land use within the District is agriculture.

The Semitropic Water Storage District serves agricultural water only. The District was formed in 1958 under Division 14 of the California Water Code, Section 39000 et al. for the purpose of supplying supplemental water within its service area boundaries. The overall goal or policy objective of the District is to enhance the groundwater basin, provide storage services for outside entities, and to minimize cost of water to farmers. During the 1960s, Semitropic developed water distribution facilities to extend from the California Aqueduct to the District's irrigated areas. Prior to this water system, the irrigated agriculture within the District was totally dependent on pumping groundwater.

Some of the landowners currently have approximately 43,800 acres under contract with the District to receive water at \$110.00 per acre-foot. The District has entitlement to 155,000 acre-feet of water from the State Water Project and serves customers under a Water Service Contract from this entitlement water. The remaining irrigated acres are served using wells and as additional surface water is available. Those customers who receive water without a contract and when water is available are charged \$100.00 per acre-foot in the winter and \$110.00 per acre-foot in the summer.

In 1995, Semitropic began a groundwater banking program designed to recharge groundwater and reduce overdraft, increase operational reliability and flexibility, and optimize the distribution and use of available water resources. The District currently has 12 groundwater banking partners, which include both private water companies and public agencies. The groundwater banking capacity of this program is 1,650,000 acre-feet. In addition, the District also established a groundwater monitoring program so that any adverse groundwater impacts of the water banking project could be mitigated. The monitoring program is overseen by a committee, which includes District, adjoining districts, and banking participants.

In addition to the programs listed above, Semitropic has a history of partnering with both public agencies and private companies for providing infrastructure or financing. The District recently conducted joint studies for a Poso Creek dam and the District is a member of the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) and continually works with other districts to affect sales, transfers and exchanges of water to make good use of any excess water in the County.

Due to the location of the District, services cannot be duplicated by another agency. Likewise, the District may consider annexation of certain adjacent lands, which are not currently served by any other district.

The District currently has 43 employees and is governed by a Board consisting of seven directors, and is required to report to, or receives licenses from the County of Kern and State of California. The Board of Directors meets regularly the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the District office located at 1101 Central Avenue in Wasco. Special notices, newsletters and news articles keep the public and constituents up to date on meetings and current District information.

3.4 WASCO RECREATION AND PARKS DISTRICT

The Wasco Recreation and Parks District provides public recreation programs and parkland within the City of Wasco and its SOI. The District was formed January 29, 1948 under Sections 5431-5467 of the Public Resources Code by the Kern County Board of Supervisors. The overall mission of the District is, “to create recreational opportunities for growth and enhancement by developing diverse services and programs that promote citizen involvement and a strong sense of community while striving to increase the social, cultural and physical well-being of its residents and visitors.”

The District currently maintains five parks, totaling approximately 42 acres. These facilities include: Barker Park (13 acres), Westside Park (13 acres), Cormack Park (5.3 acres), Annin Park (10 Acres), and Southgate Park (0.34 acre). In 2002, the City completed a new skate park in Westside Park, and the Recreation and Parks District is responsible for the ongoing maintenance pursuant to an agreement with the City. The Wasco Recreation and Parks District owns and maintains the Veteran’s Memorial Building.

The District has several cooperative agreements with other agencies. Historically, the District works with both the Wasco Union High School and the Wasco Elementary School District for facility use and programming. The District also has an agreement with the City of Wasco to maintain the Wasco Skate Park located in West Side Park.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, three of whom are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Wasco and two who are appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Directors meets regularly the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Wasco Veterans Hall located at 1202 Poplar Street in Wasco. Meeting agendas and Board minutes are made available to the public to keep the public and constituents up to date on meetings and current District information.

The District currently has 20 employees, 14 of whom are part-time for the summer swim season. The administrative staff consists of the District Manager, Program Coordinator, District Secretary, Maintenance Supervisor and Maintenance Technician. As the budget allows and need necessitates, part-time maintenance is hired.

The Wasco Recreation and Parks District has established objectives for public parks, which is six acres per 1,000 persons. Three acres per 1,000 are to be developed for a community park, 2.5 acres per 1,000 for neighborhood parks and 0.5 acre per 1,000 for pocket parks. Based on the City's current population, the City is deficit 69 acres of parkland to remain within standards.

The District has historically projected growth by utilizing data gathered by the City of Wasco Planning Department. To reduce the impacts of growth on park and recreation facilities, the City has adopted Quimby fees to fund park acquisition and has offered staff assistance in gathering demographic data for grant applications.

When new development is proposed within the City of Wasco and requires discretionary approval, the City of Wasco submits the project to the Wasco Recreation and Parks District for review. Review of the project and its identified impacts by the District will assure that park facilities, if a part of a proposed project, minimize maintenance. For example, responses to the project may include a condition of approval that the Wasco Recreation and Parks District shall review and approve grading plans to ensure that maintenance costs are minimized.

The District is funded through property assessments and grants including Community Development Block Grants. Recent grant activity has purchased Recycled Tire Product filler for park Tot-Lots, Restroom and Concession Stand rebuild at Barker Park, ADA accessibility at Cormack Park, and recently funded is Solar Lighting and Outdoor Fitness Equipment at Westside Park. Fees are charged to users for the swimming facilities, hall rentals, recreation programs, and park shelters when reserved for functions.

Wasco Recreation and Parks focuses on its ability to provide children an opportunity to participate in various physical activities and to: move, have fun, strengthen self-confidence, develop sportsmanship, learn lifetime fitness, make new friends, promote teamwork, build character, and learn skills.

4.0 DETERMINATIONS FOR THE CITY OF WASCO

4.1 Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

Purpose: To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.

1. The City of Wasco has sufficient infrastructure capacity and financial mechanisms (such as impact fees, grant funding, low-interest loans, and the Capital Improvement Program) in place to meet existing demands and those created by planned expansion of the City within its SOI.
2. Master Plans should be provided for water, sewer, and storm drain systems and be updated on a periodic basis, as necessary. These Master Plans will assist the City in support and documentation for grant applications.
3. The wastewater treatment plant expansion would be able to accommodate the increased demand of build out of the residential and commercial projects which have been approved or are under construction. This expansion would provide full compliance with the mandates of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The City collects a wastewater treatment plant impact fee for new construction and expansion of existing facilities that have additional impact on the facility. These impact fees are to be used toward future expansion.
4. The City's updated General Plan allows for increased residential densities, establishes policies for contiguous growth and enhances the opportunities for infill development. The development of infill housing and contiguous growth will result in lower comparable development costs because infrastructure to service the new development either already exists or is adjacent to the new development.
5. Water to serve the growing population can be made available by providing new water wells and pipeline infrastructure as necessary. The City collects a water well impact fee and a trunk line fee for new construction. With completion of the ongoing and planned water infrastructure projects. The City will have ample pumping capacity to meet current and anticipated water demands. The City will comply with all State and Federal laws regarding water efficiency and landscaping. New City landscaping projects will also utilize drought tolerant species. The City is currently identifying and seeking funding sources for replacing existing city landscaping with drought tolerant species wherever possible.
6. The City's updated General Plan and Master Bicycle Plan establish goals and objectives to expand bicycle facilities, continue sidewalk improvements, and develop drought tolerant landscaping requirements for new development.

4.2 Growth and Population

Purpose: To evaluate service needs based upon existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

1. Kern COG has projected the City of Wasco's population to grow 2% annually and the number of households is projected to grow 2.4% annually through 2040.
2. The City has taken regional growth projections and local development plans to forecast for future infrastructure needs within the City to assist in long range planning purposes such as the General Plan and for large infrastructure projects or additional service needs such as water.
3. The police and fire departments utilize regional growth projections and local development plans to plan for future staffing and equipment. Utilization of this information allows the City of Wasco to meet the demands for police and fire department services that will result with growth.
4. Service demands within the City, resulting from growth, are being adequately met. Economic and population growth has enhanced the City's ability to make infrastructure improvements and maintain adequate levels of services.

4.3 Financing Constraints and Opportunities

Purpose: To evaluate a jurisdiction's capability to finance needed improvements and services.

1. The city will continue to regularly review City assessed fees for water, wastewater, traffic, police facilities, civic facilities, and parks to ensure that revenues are adequate to support demands of growth.
2. The City prepares an annual budget that clearly describes services provided to residents and funds expended for said services.
3. The City has obtained \$4.1 million for grant funded projects during the last year and should continue to pursue grant funding to assist with future projects.
4. The City utilizes generally accepted accounting principles in managing its financial resources. Financial regulations are codified in Municipal Codes and impending ordinances and resolutions.
5. The City actively seeks opportunities to jointly finance projects. This approach has enabled the City to provide or receive services that would otherwise be unavailable (i.e.: youth recreation center partnership with school district, skate park with the Parks and Recreation District, etc.).

4.4 Cost-Avoidance Opportunities

Purpose: To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.

1. The City is operating in a fiscally responsible manner and cost savings opportunities are continually sought by the City in order to maximize City resources.
2. A Risk Management authority is used by the City to meet all insurance

requirements. The insurance pool allows the City to secure excellent insurance coverage at group rates.

3. The City utilizes in-house staff for finance, payroll operations, and most other municipal services. This allows the City greater budget accountability and ensures local control.
4. Prudent payment policies have been implemented such as issuing bi-weekly checks.
5. City personnel are routinely evaluated and cross-trained. This maximizes services with limited staff resources.

4.5 Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

Purpose: To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.

1. The existing rates and charges, as re-visited during budget preparation each year, are designed to allow the City to continue operating on a fiscally sound basis, and to provide services within budgetary limits.
2. Prior to any rate restructuring, the City completes a comprehensive service fee analysis, which includes a cost/revenue appraisal and includes comparisons with other cities in Kern County and/or within cities within the San Joaquin Valley.
3. Infrastructure needed to support new and future development will be paid by new construction/connections in the form of impact fees.
4. The City of Wasco sets rates for public services based on actual costs for these services. Existing rates charged for services are adequate to cover existing expenses.

4.6 Opportunities for Shared Facilities

Purpose: To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

1. The City partnered with the Parks and Recreation District to conduct an urban greening, parks and open space master plan.
2. The City partnered with the local school districts to develop a Safe Routes to School and Bicycle Master Plan.
3. Additional partnership opportunities should continue to be pursued between the city and other agencies for reduction in costs, personnel, office space, materials and other resources or expenses.
4. The City contracts with Kern County for police and fire services. These Wasco-based stations provide public safety services to City residents and also to the unincorporated areas around the City. The shared facilities provide cost savings, by eliminating a duplication of services, facilities, and coverage area.
5. The City has successfully partnered with many agencies, County departments and special districts (Wasco Union High School District, Wasco Union Elementary School District, etc.) and has successfully funded projects.

4.7 Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

Purpose: To identify disadvantaged communities within or adjacent to the City's Sphere of Influence.

SB 244 went into effect on July 1, 2012. SB 244 requires local agencies to consider disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) through MSR or SOI amendments for any agency that provides water, sewer, or fire protection services and make a written determination regarding the feasibility of providing such services to any DUCs within or adjacent to its SOI.

The State of California's definition of a DUC (as used by Kern LAFCo) is an area with 12 or more registered voters and with a median household income that is 80% or less of the State median.

1. The City of Wasco does not have any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or adjacent to the City's Sphere of Influence.

4.8 Government Structure Options

Purpose: To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.

1. Public services are being adequately provided by the City of Wasco under the existing government structure.
2. The City is providing similar services as other government agencies within, or immediately adjacent to its limits and SOI. The City should continue to evaluate government structure to ensure the best delivery of public services to its residents.
3. The City's philosophy of providing services "in-house" maintains local control, allows strict cost and budget controls, and provides greater accountability to residents.
4. There is currently no incidence of overlapping jurisdictions which could result in increased rates to the citizens, service inefficiencies, or unnecessarily increase the cost of infrastructure.

4.9 Evaluation of Management Efficiencies

Purpose: To consider the management structure of the jurisdiction.

1. The City operates with a closely integrated department head management team creating an efficient management structure.
2. The City's annual budget and accounting practices are audited by a certified public accountant.
3. The City provides most municipal services in-house. Unless it is fiscally advantageous to contract for services, such as police and fire services. This approach allows for greater cost-control and a higher degree of responsiveness and service to the City's residents.
4. The City management team conducts weekly management meetings and practices constant communication regarding key management issues.

4.10 Local Accountability and Governance

Purpose: To evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management processes.

1. The City posts City Council Agenda, meeting dates and times, and minutes in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.
2. The City provides adequate notice of public hearings that include public participation.
3. The City's website provides information about City Council and other issues pertaining to the city.
4. The City has made reasonable efforts to maintain public dialogue regarding community issues or future development by hosting community outreach events. Community outreach events provide residents the opportunity to voice their opinions and provides them with information regarding current and future projects.
5. The City has an inclusive philosophy with respect to community involvement, which ensures citizen participation and accountability in all aspects of City operations.
6. Elected and appointed officials are available during regular office hours by appointment and for special activities and events.
7. The City's budget, rates for services, and project determinations are adopted in advertised meetings that are open to the public and held pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

5.0 Referenced Materials

2010 City of Wasco Urban Water Management Plan
2014 City of Wasco General Plan Update
2014 City of Wasco Bicycle Master Plan
2014 Kern Council of Governments Final Regional Transportation Plan
2011-2020 Department of Finance County Population and Housing Estimates
2012 Kern County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
2013 City of Wasco Safety Element
2014 City of Wasco Urban Greening, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan

5.1 List of Preparers and Participants

Keri Cobb, Senior Planner, City of Wasco.
Richard Diamond, General Manager, North Kern Water Storage District.
Vickie Hight, District Manager, Wasco Recreation and Parks District.
Brian Hockett, District Manager, North West Kern RCD.
Roger Mobley, Director of Planning, City of Wasco.
Marsha Payne, Executive Secretary, Semitropic Water Storage District
Ben Raymond, Regional Planner, Kern County of Governments.
Biridiana Rios, Assistant Planner, City of Wasco.
Bob Wren, Director of Public Works, City of Wasco Public Works Department.