



***VECTOR CONTROL  
COUNTY SERVICE AREA  
MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW FINAL***

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*January 10, 2013*

Prepared for the  
Local Agency Formation Commission of Alameda County  
by  
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# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

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<b>1. AGENCY OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>2</b>
FORMATION .....	2
BOUNDARY .....	2
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE .....	3
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE.....	5
MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING .....	6
GROWTH AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS.....	7
FINANCING .....	8
<b>2. MUNICIPAL SERVICES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
VECTOR CONTROL SERVICES .....	10
<b>3. MSR DETERMINATIONS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE.....</b>	<b>18</b>

# 1. AGENCY OVERVIEW

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Vector Control County Service Area (VCCSA) provides vector control services, including responding to requests for service investigations, nuisance wildlife management, rabies surveillance, rodent control, solid waste problems investigations, vector borne disease surveillance and control, public education and information, and assistance to the local agencies to enforce state laws, regulations and local ordinances throughout Alameda County.

The most recent municipal service review for VCCSA was adopted in May 2006.

## FORMATION

VCCSA was formed on January 18, 1984 as a dependent special district to serve the public need for a comprehensive vector control program. The County's Environmental Health Department was experiencing fiscal shortfalls, and had to reduce vector control services in Alameda County. In response, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors created VCCSA after the passage of Measure A, which received over 70 percent voter approval for the formation of the CSA.

The principal act that governs VCCSA is the County Service Area (CSA) law.<sup>1</sup> The principal act authorizes CSAs to provide a wide variety of municipal services, including street maintenance, fire protection, extended police protection, water and sewer services.<sup>2</sup> A CSA may only provide those services authorized in its formation resolution unless the Board of Supervisors adopts a resolution authorizing additional services. All districts must apply and obtain LAFCo approval to exercise latent powers or, in other words, those services authorized by the principal act but not provided by the district at the end of 2000.<sup>3</sup>

## BOUNDARY

VCCSA's boundary area includes all of Alameda County. Initially, Dublin, Emeryville and Fremont were not included in VCCSA and opted to seek alternative sources for providing a vector program. In 1992, at the request of the Dublin City Council, Dublin was annexed by VCCSA. In 2009, both Emeryville and Fremont were annexed to VCCSA after a successful Proposition 218 mail-out balloting process. Currently, VCCSA is a countywide district that

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<sup>1</sup> California Government Code §25210 et seq

<sup>2</sup> California Government Code §25213.

<sup>3</sup> Government Code §56824.10.

provides vector control services to all 14 cities in Alameda County and the unincorporated county area.

The total boundary area of VCCSA is 821 square miles—737 square miles of land and 84 square miles of water. VCCSA’s boundaries are shown in Figure 1-1.

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## Extra-territorial Services

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Vector control services are provided throughout the unincorporated area and in all of the cities of Alameda County. VCCSA does not typically provide vector control services outside its bounds, although it is allowed to go outside of its boundaries in order to prevent vectors from spreading into VCCSA’s bounds.

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## Unserved Areas

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There are no areas within VCCSA bounds that lack vector control services. As was mentioned in the previous section, VCCSA does not provide mosquito abatement services anywhere in the County except for the City of Albany; however, the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (ACMAD) offers these services elsewhere in the County.

## **SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**

The Sphere of Influence (SOI) was established on September 20, 1984 as coterminous with the Alameda County limits. No SOI amendments have been made since the SOI was first created. During the 2006 SOI updates, the Commission elected to retain the VCCSA countywide SOI to encourage the annexation of the cities of Emeryville and Fremont by VCCSA. VCCSA’s SOI is shown in Figure 1-1.



## ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

Accountability of a governing body is signified by a combination of several indicators. The indicators chosen here are limited to 1) agency efforts to engage and educate constituents through outreach activities, in addition to legally required activities such as agenda posting and public meetings, 2) a defined complaint process designed to handle all issues to resolution, and 3) transparency of the agency as indicated by cooperation with the MSR process and information disclosure.

VCCSA was formed as a dependent special district with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors as its governing body. There are five members of the governing body of VCCSA. The five supervisors are elected to four-year terms of office. Current board member names, positions, and term expiration dates are shown in Figure 1-2.

The Board of Supervisors meets weekly. Agendas for each weekly meeting are posted by the Board Clerk on the internet and at the County Administration Building. The Board Clerk provides notices for meetings and disseminates minutes. Board actions and meeting minutes are available on the internet. Through the County website, the public has access to live audio/visual webcasts and archived audio and/or visual webcasts of regular board meetings for viewing online at their convenience. The County also discloses finances, plans and other public documents via the internet.

**Figure 1-2: Vector Control CSA Governing Body**

<b>Vector Control CSA</b>				
<b><i>District Contact Information</i></b>				
<b>Contact:</b>	Lucia Hui, Chief of Vector Control			
<b>Address:</b>	1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 166, Alameda, CA 94502			
<b>Telephone:</b>	(510)567-6800			
<b>Fax</b>	(510)337-9137			
<b>Email/website:</b>	<a href="http://www.acvcsd.org">www.acvcsd.org</a>			
<b><i>Board of Directors</i></b>				
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>	<b>Manner of Selection</b>	<b>Length of Term</b>
Scott Haggerty	Supervisor, Dist. 1	January 2017	Elected	4 years
Richard Valle	Supervisor, Dist. 2	January 2015	Elected	4 years
Wilma Chan	Supervisor, Dist. 3	January 2015	Elected	4 years
Nate Miley, President	Supervisor, Dist. 4	January 2017	Elected	4 years
Keith Carson, Vice President	Supervisor, Dist. 5	January 2017	Elected	4 years
<b><i>Meetings</i></b>				
<b>Date:</b>	Every Tuesday at 9:30am.			
<b>Location:</b>	Meetings are held in the Board Chambers at 1221 Oak Street, 5th floor in Oakland.			
<b>Agenda Distribution:</b>	Posted on internet and County Administration Building.			
<b>Minutes Distribution:</b>	Available on County website.			

To inform constituents of its activities, VCCSA makes copies of its annual report available to the public at its office, sends copies to interested parties, and posts a copy on its website. VCCSA prepares newsletters, which are submitted to participating cities and available on the CSA's website. VCCSA participates in county fairs and public venues

including the Alameda County Fair, the Fremont Festival of the Arts, the Hayward Zucchini Festival, the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree, and the Oakland Chinatown Lunar New Year Festival. VCCSA continues to expand outreach to the public and ethnically diversified populations. VCCSA has had several media contacts, press releases and interviews on Lyme Disease and ticks, wildlife and rabies. At the VCCSA office, the vector ecologist, community relations coordinator and management provide phone consultations on vector related questions and onsite identification of insects, ticks and others. In 2011, VCCSA reorganized its website to make it more user friendly.

Customer complaints about VCCSA services or personnel may be reported by telephone, email, or in writing. VCCSA reports that it documents complaints to resolution. Complaints involving personnel are kept confidential. It was reported that there were no complaints in 2011. In the same year, VCCSA received over 4,800 service requests.

VCCSA demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with LAFCo questionnaires and other requests for information and review.

## **MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING**

While public sector management standards vary depending on the size and scope of the organization, there are minimum standards. Well-managed organizations evaluate employees annually, track employee and agency productivity, periodically review agency performance, prepare a budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, conduct periodic financial audits to safeguard the public trust, maintain relatively current financial records, conduct advanced planning for future service needs, and plan and budget for capital needs.

VCCSA's staff consists of 35 positions, which include management, supervisory, field, clerical, and four trainee positions. Additional administrative and technical support is provided by the Alameda County Environmental Health Department.

VCCSA conducts staff performance evaluations annually. VCCSA reviews and evaluates overall district performance regularly in its annual report. VCCSA does not conduct any benchmarking of its services with other similar providers.

VCCSA indicated that it monitored productivity by review of workload statistics from daily reports and by maintaining a database. These workload data sets are accumulated into VCCSA's annual report.

Other management practices conducted by VCCSA include performance-based budgeting (where budgets are determined by annual performance goals) and annual financial audits.

The mission of VCCSA is to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases, injury and discomfort to the residents of VCCSA by controlling insects, rodents, and other vectors and eliminating causal environmental conditions through education, and integrated pest management practices.

Neither VCCSA nor the Environmental Health Department has a strategic plan. However, the Board of Supervisors adopted Alameda County's Strategic Vision in 2008 to provide a multi-year, comprehensive, and far-reaching roadmap with high-level strategic direction for the County's agencies and departments, who are responsible for implementation through their own strategic plans and activities. VCCSA does not have a capital improvement plan or master plan. VCCSA presents an annual report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in compliance with County Service Area law and the Alameda County Ordinance code.

VCCSA's finances are managed by the County. While County finances are audited annually, the VCCSA finances are not isolated in the audited financial statements but are grouped with other health and sanitation finances. All special districts are required to submit annual audits to the County within 12 months of the completion of the fiscal year, unless the Board of Supervisors has approved a biennial or five-year schedule.<sup>4</sup> In the case of VCCSA, the CSA does not have to submit its own audits; it is included in the County's financial statements which are audited annually.

## **GROWTH AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

This section discusses the factors affecting service demand, such as land uses, and historical and anticipated population growth.

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### **Land Use**

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VCCSA's boundary area is 821 square miles. The County is the land use authority for the unincorporated areas. Cities are the land use authorities within the respective city boundaries. VCCSA encompasses every land use designated by the County and the incorporated cities within its bounds.

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### **Existing Population**

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As of 2010, VCCSA's boundary population was 1,510,271, with population density of 1,840 people per square mile.

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### **Projected Growth and Development**

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Based on Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) growth projections and VCCSA's estimated population from the 2010 Census, the population of the area within VCCSA is anticipated to reach 1,966,300 by 2035, with an average annual growth rate of one percent,

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<sup>4</sup> Government Code §26909.



which is equivalent to the growth projected countywide. From 2010 to 2035 the population of VCCSA is estimated to grow by 27 percent.

In the past decade, the growth within VCCSA has been occurring in the east county cities of Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. According to ABAG growth projections, future growth is anticipated to be concentrated in the cities of Dublin, Emeryville and Livermore over the next 25 years.

VCCSA reports population growth in the County affects its service demand. As any land develops into residential or commercial use it will increase the parcel numbers to be served. According to VCCSA, growth in demand for vector services is concentrated in the City of Fremont area.

## FINANCING

The financial ability of agencies to provide services is affected by available financing sources and financing constraints. This section discusses the major financing constraints faced by VCCSA and identifies the revenue sources currently available to the CSA.

VCCSA reported that current financial levels are adequate to deliver services. No challenges to financing were identified.

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### Revenues

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The revenues for VCCSA for FY 10-11 were \$4,829,908. The revenue sources included benefit assessments (91 percent) and interest, unclaimed money and operating transfers (nine percent).

VCCSA charges the basic initial benefit assessment rate of \$5.92 per benefit unit and the secondary benefit assessment rate of \$4.08 per benefit unit for Albany, Alameda, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Dublin, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Sunol, Union City, and unincorporated areas, and a benefit assessment of \$10 per benefit unit for the newly annexed cities of Emeryville and Fremont. Residents of the City of Oakland are charged a supplemental fee of \$1.28 per benefit unit for special sewer inspections and a rodent population reduction program within the City. In the City of Albany, where VCCSA provides supplemental mosquito abatement services, residents are charged the same assessments as other cities, in other words they are not charged an separate fees for the extra service.

Based on the cities that are within each of the benefit assessment rate areas as discussed above, in FY 10-11, the number of benefit units meeting the criteria established by the Assessor's office for the initial \$5.92 benefit unit rate was 456,387. The number of single family equivalents meeting the criteria for the secondary \$4.08 benefit unit rate in FY 10-11 was 378,235. The single-family residence units in FY 11-12 in Emeryville were 3,704 and 62,397 in Fremont.

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## Expenditures

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Expenditures in FY 10-11 for VCCSA were \$3,821,997, which consisted of salaries and benefits (60 percent), services and supplies (30 percent), and other services, charges and financing uses (10 percent). Total revenues exceeded total expenditures by \$1,007,910.

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## Liabilities and Assets

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VCCSA does not have any long-term debt.

VCCSA had a fund balance of \$2,989,120 at the end of FY 10-11.

VCCSA's capital financing approach is pay-as-you-go, meaning the CSA relies on current revenues and reserves to finance capital projects.

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## Financing Efficiencies

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VCCSA engages in joint financing arrangements related to insurance. The County receives excess workers compensation and liability coverage through the California State Association of Counties Excess Insurance Authority—a joint powers authority.

## ***2. MUNICIPAL SERVICES***

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### **VECTOR CONTROL SERVICES**

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#### **Service Overview**

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VCCSA is responsible for providing vector control services, including controlling public health nuisances carried by rats, fleas, ticks, mites, flies, and other insects. VCCSA investigates public concerns and provides educational information regarding vectors and vector-borne diseases. The agency oversees the administration of quarantine measures regarding animal bites, investigates nuisances, and removes nuisance wildlife (skunks and raccoons) when preventative alternatives are infeasible or likely to be ineffective. VCCSA conducts rodent suppression, surveys of rat populations, and inspection and baiting of sewers for rats.<sup>5</sup> Supplemental services for the City of Oakland involve surveillance and control of a severe rat population originating in the City's sewer system.

Staff responding to a rodent service request conduct an extensive survey of the exterior and interior premises looking for conditions conducive to rodent entry to structure. They hand out brochures, and when necessary, VCCSA works with the local code enforcement agencies to seek compliance to mitigate the problem. If evidence is found suggesting an infestation over a larger area than a single-family residence, neighborhood surveys are conducted.

Mosquito abatement services are provided by VCCSA only within the City of Albany by resolution of the City Council.<sup>6</sup> Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (ACMAD) provides mosquito abatement services for the remainder of the County. When ACMAD was originally formed in 1930, the City of Albany chose not to join. The City chose to receive mosquito monitoring/control from VCCSA when it was established in 1984. Although the categories of services provided by the two districts' (VCCSA and ACMAD) are similar, their services appear to complement each other. ACMAD provides only mosquito abatement services to the entire County, with the exception of the City of Albany. VCCSA on the other hand provides other vector control services to all of Alameda County and mosquito abatement services only in the City of Albany. These differing service areas are clearly delineated to mitigate any potential for duplication of services by the two districts. There have been discussions between the districts on the potential of transferring responsibility for mosquito abatement in the City of Albany to ACMAD. While LAFCo could extend

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<sup>5</sup> Since 2006, VCCSA has stopped applying rodenticides on waterfronts, due to the secondary poisoning of other wildlife.

<sup>6</sup> It is unknown if there is a formal agreement/contract between the City of Albany and VCCSA for these services.

ACMAD's assessment to the residents of Albany as a condition of annexation, ACMAD has stated that it would give property owners the opportunity to vote on the ACMAD benefit assessment that is levied in all other areas of the County. Transferring the mosquito abatement services to ACMAD would be beneficial to VCCSA, which is presently subsidizing these services in the City.

The City of Berkeley Department of Health and Human Services continues to receive funds via contractual agreement from VCCSA to operate the vector control program in Berkeley. The City of Berkeley is one of four cities in California with its own environmental health jurisdiction. In 1976, the City adopted several environmental health ordinances that provide a mechanism to protect public health from vectors. The voters of Berkeley approved Measure A in 1984 and became a part of VCCSA. Since the Berkeley Division of Environmental Health already had a vector control program that contains enforceable regulations for controlling rodents and other vectors, VCCSA authorizes a contract each fiscal year to fund the City vector program through the benefit assessment.

VCCSA also has a contract with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to control yellow jacket ground nests within the county parks owned and/or operated by EBRPD.

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## Demand for Services

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In 2010, the highest percentage of all vector control service requests was received in the City of Oakland. The cities of Fremont, Hayward, Alameda, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Leandro were among other high demand areas for service requests. Albany, Emeryville and Piedmont were on the other side of the spectrum with the lowest demand for services.

### Urban Rodent Surveillance

In 2010, VCCSA received 1,219 requests for service from the public on domestic rats, representing 24 percent of all requests. Additionally, staff performed 8,483 field services related to domestic rodents, including smoke and dye tests of sewer lines, field surveys, follow-up evaluations, and enforcement actions. Of the 8,087 sewer inspections and 1,448 treatments that were conducted, 95 percent were made in Albany, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and San Leandro.

Roof rats are established throughout the suburban and semi-urban areas in Alameda County. Vector control officers responded to 520 roof rat service requests from homeowners, businesses, and municipalities.

## Diseased Vector Surveillance

### *Hantavirus*

In 2010, VCCSA staff surveyed four parks in the East Bay Regional Park District: Anthony Chabot, Del Valle, Mission Peak, and Sunol. Only Anthony Chabot and Sunol yielded rodents for testing. Additionally, VCCSA surveyed four other areas—Villareal Drive and East Castro Valley Boulevard, Castro Valley, Vallejo Mill Historical Park and Scott Creek Road, and Fremont. One property risk assessment was conducted on a property near Lakeridge Park, Hayward.

### *Lyme Disease*

A total of 1,813 ticks (adults and nymphs) were collected; only 926 adults and 419 nymphs were dissected and cultured for Lyme Disease.

### *Rabies*

VCCSA submitted 119 animal heads, including dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks and bats to the Alameda County Public Health Laboratory for rabies testing in 2010.

## Wildlife Management

In 2010, VCCSA responded to 1,887 service requests concerning wildlife, and provided almost 3,806 hours of field support within or near residential areas. Of these service requests, 940 were related to raccoons, 463 for skunks, 37 for feral pigs, 74 for wild turkeys, 47 for gray foxes, 28 for coyotes, 20 for opossums; and five for mountain lions.

## Mosquito Surveillance

A total of 71 trap nights were performed, and 130 female mosquitoes were captured in 2010. Due to the low mosquito catches, no mosquito pools were submitted to U.C. Davis for West Nile Virus (WNV) virus isolation. In 2010, positive WNV activities detected in Alameda County included one human case and one dead bird.

## Venomous Arthropods

In 2010, VCCSA responded to 179 venomous wasp and 279 honeybee complaints.

## Miscellaneous Arthropods

VCCSA responded to 234 bedbug service requests in 2010.

## Nuisance Abatement

VCCSA responded to 396 service requests concerning nuisances that may create vector-friendly environments, primarily garbage and rubbish, resulting in 2,165 field services including investigations, progress assessments, correspondence, and compliance inspections.

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## Public Information and Education Activities

The re-vamped District website received a total of 542,349 hits in 2010—averaging about 45,195 hits per month.

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## Infrastructure and Facilities

The VCCSA's key infrastructure includes office space, dry pesticide storage, equipment storage, and lab facilities located in the County Environmental Health Department building. Equipment used by VCCSA includes 22 field vehicles, one van, two mechanical manhole lifters, and various devices for pesticide application.

Since 2005, VCCSA has purchased three new vehicles, two smoke detectors to test sewer breaks, two microscopes, and updated all information technology equipment (computers, field tablets, and digital cameras).

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## Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

VCCSA reported that at present there are no infrastructure needs or deficiencies in its facilities, vehicles and equipment.

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## Shared Facilities and Regional Collaboration

VCCSA manages statistical data, and works cooperatively with the 14 local animal control agencies (the County Sheriff's Office and the city departments, with the exception of the City of Dublin<sup>7</sup>) to administrate the rabies surveillance program in Alameda County.

VCCSA participates in a countywide integrated pest management policy set by the Board of Supervisors.

A governance structure alternative may be consolidation with ACMAD. Many other counties have districts that offer both mosquito and vector abatement services. Offering these services through a single entity may enhance efficiency and reduce administrative costs. ACMAD and VCCSA have not considered consolidation to date.

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## Service Adequacy

This section reviews indicators of service adequacy, including success rate in reducing the outbreak of illnesses and response time to service requests.

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<sup>7</sup> City of Pleasanton reports for the City of Dublin.

There are no present or recent public health advisories concerning mosquito or vector-borne illnesses in the areas served by VCCSA. VCCSA has been successful in reducing the outbreak of illnesses including plague and encephalitis.

Response times are another indicator of service adequacy. VCCSA reported that it responds to its service calls within three business days, although responses typically occur in less than 24 hours. By comparison ACMAD generally responds to requests within one business day.

### ***3. MSR DETERMINATIONS***

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#### **Growth and Population Projections**

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- ❖ As of 2010, the population within Vector Control County Service Area (VCCSA) was 1,510,271.
- ❖ Based on ABAG growth projections the population of VCCSA is anticipated to be 1,966,300 by 2035.
- ❖ Future growth is anticipated to be concentrated in the cities of Dublin, Emeryville and Livermore over the next 25 years. According to VCCSA, growth in demand for services is concentrated in the City of Fremont area.

#### **Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence**

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- ❖ Based on Census Designated Places, Alameda LAFCo determines that there are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that meet the basic state-mandated criteria. Alameda LAFCo recognizes, however, that there are communities in the county that experience disparities related to socio-economic, health, and crime issues, but the subject of this review is municipal services such as water, sewer, and fire protection services to which these communities, for the most part, have access.

#### **Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

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- ❖ Demand for vector control services is driven by growth of both human and vector populations.
- ❖ Based on the response time of typically within 24 hours that VCCSA is able to maintain with approximately 23 requests per day, it appears that the CSA has sufficient capacity to continue to serve existing and anticipated demand.
- ❖ There are no present or recent public health advisories concerning mosquito or vector-borne illnesses in the areas served by VCCSA. VCCSA has been successful in eliminating the outbreak of illnesses including plague and encephalitis.
- ❖ Since 2005, VCCSA has purchased three new vehicles, two smoke detectors to test sewer breaks, two microscopes, and updated all information technology equipment.



- ❖ No infrastructure needs or deficiencies were identified for VCCSA.

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### Financial Ability of Agency to Provide Services

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- ❖ VCCSA reported that its financing levels were adequate to deliver services. No challenges to financing were identified.
- ❖ VCCSA had just over nine months of expenditures in unrestricted reserves at the end of FY 10-11, which is sufficient to weather any short-term financial challenges.
- ❖ The City of Albany is the only area in the County where VCCSA provides mosquito abatement services. VCCSA does not assess property owners in that city any additional fee for the service.
- ❖ VCCSA does not have any long-term debt.
- ❖ VCCSA uses a pay-as-you-go approach to capital improvement financing.

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### Status and Opportunities for Shared Facilities

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- ❖ VCCSA engages in joint financing arrangements related to insurance and workers compensation.
- ❖ VCCSA manages statistical data, and works cooperatively with the 13 local animal control agencies to administrate the rabies surveillance program in Alameda County.
- ❖ VCCSA participates in a countywide integrated pest management policy set by the Board of Supervisors
- ❖ There may be an opportunity for VCCSA to share specialized equipment and vehicles with ACMAD.

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### Accountability for Community Services, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

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- ❖ VCCSA is governed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The Board updates constituents, broadcasts its meetings, solicits constituent input, discloses its finances, and posts public documents on its website.
- ❖ The agency demonstrated accountability in its cooperation with LAFCo requests for information.
- ❖ A governance structure option is for VCCSA to discontinue mosquito abatement services in the City of Albany and Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District to annex the City. VCCSA would continue providing vector control services

countywide. At present, ACMAD's sphere of influence is countywide, indicating LAFCO's anticipation that ACMAD will eventually take on services in Albany.

- ❖ Another potential governance structure option is consolidation with ACMAD. Such a consolidation may offer savings by eliminating some administration costs. A challenge to consolidation may be the differing revenue levels and sources of each of the agencies.

## ***4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE***

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### **Existing Sphere of Influence Boundary**

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VCCSA's SOI is coterminous with its boundaries and includes the entire County of Alameda. The SOI was first established in 1984 as countywide. There have been no SOI changes since then. During the 2006 SOI updates, the Commission elected to retain a coterminous SOI.

### **SOI Options**

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Two options were identified with respect to VCCSA's SOI.

#### **Option #1 – Maintain existing coterminous SOI**

Should the Commission wish to continue to reflect the existing service boundary, then a coterminous SOI would be appropriate.

#### **Option #2 – Adopt a zero SOI**

If LAFCo wants to indicate that VCCSA and ACMAD should consolidate, a zero SOI may be appropriate.

### **Recommended Sphere of Influence Boundary**

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Given the fact that the boundary area includes the entire territory of Alameda County and no reduction in service area or boundary area is proposed, it is recommended that the Commission maintain a coterminous SOI for the VCCSA.

In light of the fact that consolidation has not been proposed by the affected agencies and sufficient analysis has not been completed to identify what (if any) efficiencies could be gained from this consolidation, it appears that a zero SOI would be premature. For example, should it be determined that ACMAD would be the successor agency taking on the functions of both districts, the VCCSA would have a zero SOI and ACMAD's SOI would remain unchanged. It is recommended that the two districts work cooperatively to determine what the benefits of consolidation would be.

While there is the potential for ACMAD to take on mosquito abatement in the City of Albany, VCCSA would continue to provide vector control services there and the area would remain within VCCSA's boundaries. Consequently, no change would need to be made to VCCSA's SOI.

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## Proposed Sphere of Influence Determinations

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### Nature, location, extent, functions, and classes of services provided

- ❖ Vector Control County Service Area (VCCSA) is responsible for providing vector control services, including controlling public health dangers carried by rats, fleas, ticks, mites, flies, and other insects. VCCSA investigates public concerns and provides educational information regarding vectors and vector-borne diseases. The agency oversees the administration of quarantine measures regarding animal bites, investigates nuisances, and removes nuisance wildlife (skunks and raccoons) when preventative alternatives are infeasible or likely to be ineffective. VCCSA conducts rodent suppression, surveys of rat populations, and inspection and baiting of sewers for rats. Supplemental services for the City of Oakland involve surveillance and control of a severe rat population originating in the City's sewer system. VCCSA also provides mosquito control services in the City of Albany.

### Present and planned land uses, including agricultural and open-space lands

- ❖ VCCSA encompasses every land use designated by the County and the incorporated cities within its bounds, including agricultural and open-space lands. The SOI is consistent with planned land uses.
- ❖ While there are agricultural and open-space lands within VCCSA, no impacts on agricultural resources, open space or Williamson Act contracts will occur as no service changes are proposed.

### Present and probable need for public facilities and services

- ❖ Given that VCCSA averaged 23 requests for service per day in FY 10-11, there is a present need for VCCSA's services.
- ❖ The population in VCCSA is expected to continue to grow, which will require an ongoing need for VCCSA's services.
- ❖ Vector Control CSA will continue to monitor other vector borne illnesses as well, such as Lyme disease, Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome and plague.

### Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide

- ❖ Based on the response time of typically within 24 hours that VCCSA is able to maintain with approximately 23 requests per day in FY 11, it appears that the CSA has sufficient capacity to continue to serve existing and anticipated demand.
- ❖ There are no present or recent public health advisories concerning mosquito or vector-borne illnesses in the areas served by VCCSA. VCCSA has been successful in reducing the outbreak of illnesses including plague and encephalitis.

Existence of any social or economic communities of interest

- ❖ VCCSA was formed to provide countywide vector control services and serve the residents of Alameda County. All County residents benefit from services provided by VCCSA. Property owners that pay a benefit assessment to VCCSA have a particular economic interest in the activities of the CSA.