

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ELEMENT



The City of Biggs actively protects the natural environment through preservation and enhancement of open space, natural resources, and agriculture. The City preserves the natural landscape by conserving agricultural land and by providing accessible natural recreation areas for all residents. The community enjoys fresh water, clean air, and numerous recreation options.

I. INTRODUCTION

The areas in and around the City of Biggs and the City of Biggs Planning Area contain an abundance of open spaces. These open space areas provide habitat and movement corridors for wildlife, as well as options for recreation and education, and help to create the visual aesthetic of the City and enhance the overall quality of life for residents. The Conservation and Recreation



Element, a legally required element, is included in this General Plan to address issues related to open space, including City parks, recreation, and a broad range of natural resource issues.

In addition to discussing open space, parks, and recreation resources, this element will also discuss an important issue to the City of Biggs area: agriculture. Amounting to approximately 4,000 acres, agricultural lands comprise the vast majority of land use within the Planning Area and are the most significant component of the city's economy.

Because agriculture is such an important component of City's economy and geographic area, conversion of agricultural lands into nonagricultural purposes must be considered carefully and allowed only as a result of logical and orderly planning. It is also important that any farmland conversion result in an efficient use of land so as to minimize the need for further conversion.

Overview

This Conservation and Recreation Element is a required element of the the General Plan pursuant to the requirements of Section 65302(d) of the Government Code. This Conservation and Recreation Element combines the required General Plan Conservation and Open Space elements as described in Sections 65302(d) and (e) of the Government Code and adds information and policies covering recreation resources in the City. This element provides context and sets goals and policies for the use and acquisition of open space and the protection



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of biological resources, air quality, water resources, and agriculture. The element is organized into sections addressing the following five topics:

- Open Space and Parks
- Agricultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Water Resources and Water Quality
- Air Quality

II. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Open Space and Parks

Open space not only functions to preserve habitat and natural resources but also allows visual and physical access to those resources and their associated recreational opportunities. Human beings are drawn to open space as a respite from the built urban landscape. Both developed parklands and undeveloped natural features establish areas around which neighborhoods and cities are often centered or oriented. Open space also may define the edges of a community's urban development and the beginning of areas of agricultural production, resource management, or resource production.

The City of Biggs is in a unique position with respect to its parks, recreation, and open space planning. Citizens benefit from City-provided and -developed (or "improved") resources as well as from a range of additional regional resources including the Oroville Afterbay, the Oroville Wildlife Area, the Feather River, and local wildlife refuges, all located within 10 miles of the city.

While there are a number of challenges with regard to the City's provision and operation of recreation facilities and services, a significant range of opportunities stems from the city's small size and existing recreational assets. These existing facilities, which are detailed below, provide the appropriate amount of recreational lands to meet the needs for parks, recreation, and open space of Biggs's current and future residents.

Existing Facilities

Because of the compact nature of the City of Biggs, all residences in the city are within walking distance (approximately one-half mile) of an existing park. The City currently provides three parks and has one piece of property on which recreation options may exist (see **Table CR-1**). Additional park and recreation facilities in the Biggs area are provided by the Biggs Unified School District. **Figure CR-1** depicts the approximately 10 acres of parks and



facilities available to Biggs citizens.

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TABLE CR-1: EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Park	Sites	Acreage
City of Biggs Facilities		
Community Parks	Rio Bonito Park	3.0
Neighborhood Parks	Family Park	1.1
Pocket Parks	Downtown Park	0.1
	Trent Street Lot	0.3
Linear Parks	–	0.0
City of Biggs Acreage		4.5
Shared Facilities		
Community Parks	Rio Bonito Park	4.2
Neighborhood Parks	Cork Oak Park	1.0
Pocket Parks	–	0.0
Linear Parks	–	0.0
Other Facilities	Schor’s Pool	0.3
Shared Facilities Acreage		5.5
Total		10.0

Source: City of Biggs 2010

City of Biggs Facilities

Family Park: Family Park is located on the west side of the railroad tracks, east of Biggs’s downtown. The approximately 1-acre park contains a gazebo, turf areas, picnic tables, a children’s play structure, a skate area, and a half-court basketball court.

Downtown Park: The park is 0.1-acre passive recreation area located on the north side of B Street between Sixth and Seventh streets. Downtown Park features turf areas and seating and is a gathering spot for public events.





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Trent Street Lot: The Trent Street Lot is a 0.3-acre parcel located on the south side of the city. The lot has been designated by the City of Biggs as a future playground site. The front portion of the site is currently available to the public as open space; however, no improvements are present.

Shared Facilities

Rio Bonito Park: Improved in 2007–2008 through a public-private partnership with SunWest Milling Company and the Biggs Unified School District, Rio Bonito Park is a shared facility on and adjacent to the Biggs High School campus. The 7.2-acre park includes two baseball diamonds, which are used and maintained by the Biggs Unified School District. The City-developed and -maintained portion of the site is approximately 3 acres in size and includes bathroom facilities, pedestrian areas, a play structure area, picnic amenities, and a lighted parking area.



Cork Oak Park: This small park is located on the high school campus, adjacent to the community swimming pool (Schor's Pool) and is owned and maintained by the School District. Approximately 1 acre in size, this park provides picnic tables, horseshoe pits, and turf amid a former cork oak orchard.

Schor's Swimming Pool (CSA 31): County Service Area (CSA) 31 encompasses approximately 85 square miles in western Butte County. CSAs are often established by counties to provide authority and funding for recreational, infrastructure, and other improvements and services in unincorporated areas. CSA 31, which was formed in 1967 to provide swimming pool facilities to the area, operates and maintains Schor's Pool. The pool is located near the Biggs elementary and secondary schools on the eastern side of the community.

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Parkland Standards and Needs

The City of Biggs has established a minimum park and recreation land standard of 5 acres of City-owned or joint-use park facilities per each 1,000 city residents as the minimum standard for parks and recreation land and park and recreation land dedication requirements. As detailed in **Table CR-2**, the 2010 population of the city is estimated at 1,787, which corresponds to 8.9 total acres of City-operated parkland. As of 2011, the City is approximately 4.4 acres short of meeting the City's parkland standard when considering only City owned parks and recreation facilities. However, when joint use facilities are included, the City exceeds the park and recreation standard by 1.0 acres. The City estimates that by 2030, the City's estimated population of 3,997 will result in the need for an additional 15.5 acres of parkland to maintain the parkland standard of 5 acres per each 1,000 city residents.

TABLE CR-2: PROJECTED FUTURE PARK NEEDS

Population	Standard (ac./1,000 pop.)	Additional Acreage Needed to Meet Standard
Current (2010): 1,787 ¹	5.0	0 ³
Projected (2030): 3,997 ²	5.0	15.5

Source: 1 City of Biggs, 2010
 2 BCAG Projections
 3 Joint-use Recreation Facilities

Funding and Financing of Parks

The City's challenge regarding park and recreation amenities is associated with the allocation of limited monetary resources. However, the City has at its disposal various methods not directly associated with the City's General Fund for financing recreation facilities. These include grants, private donations, assessment of fees as a condition of development approval, and establishment of citywide assessment districts. Donations of labor and money from individuals and local service clubs can be used to construct and maintain recreation facilities. Local groups such as Little League, Lions, and PTA have traditionally supported recreation facility projects, especially the projects that benefit young people. Grants from the state and federal governments may also be available to finance construction of new recreation facilities or modernize existing resources. Such grants are often used to supplement local funds in order to produce larger or higher-quality projects.

The City currently charges impact fees from development for park and recreation purposes. As new development occurs on vacant and undeveloped parcels in and around Biggs, opportunities will arise to incorporate new parks within and adjacent to these areas and to add acreage to the City's park and recreation system totals.



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Future Recreational Facilities and Sites

The City's recreational needs will evolve as Biggs moves forward. As needs change, the City will reevaluate its facilities and locations in order to effectively provide recreational opportunities to the expanding population. Possible facilities and services that the City may consider within the General Plan's horizon include the following:

- Trent Street Lot improvements
- Hamilton Slough greenway improvements
- Cooperation with School District to upgrade tennis courts and community swimming pool
- Restrooms at Family Park
- Community youth/senior center



In addition, the City may examine the possibility of partnering with Butte County and the City of Gridley to provide additional recreational services to citizens. These partnerships could provide opportunities for organized youth activities.

Agricultural Resources

Agriculture has shaped the landscape and culture of the City of Biggs more than any other land use or industry. Totalling approximately 4,000 acres, agricultural uses are the largest use of land within the Planning Area and continue to be a major component of the local and regional economy. Agriculture and agricultural resources within and around the city extend beyond the growing of crops and are inclusive of commercial and industrial operations supporting the use, as well as the processing, manufacturing, and shipping of agricultural goods.



While few agricultural growing operations are located within the city limits, numerous operations exist nearby and adjacent to the city limits and within the Planning Area. Biggs is in an agricultural transition area, with field and row crops located to the west of the city and grazing land and tree crops located to the east. The primary agriculture-related industries and land uses in and around the city are rice, nuts, citrus, and prunes. Several locations offer farm-fresh produce direct from the grower to the consumer.



Most of the land surrounding Biggs is considered prime agricultural land by the State of California because it has the best combination of physical and soil characteristics for crop production. In addition to providing direct food production and employment, agricultural land also provides valuable undeveloped spaces and important and valuable wildlife habitat. For more information on agricultural land and products in the Biggs area, please see the Existing Conditions Report, Chapter 6.0 – Natural, Agricultural, and Cultural Resources.

Urban-Agricultural Interface

Protection of viable and active agricultural land is essential to Biggs and is an important consideration of this General Plan. Protection of viable and active agricultural land assures continued crop production and protects the economic base for the City and the surrounding unincorporated area. Additionally, this Plan establishes standards to protect City residents from potential negative agricultural byproducts, including spray-drift from chemicals, dust, and noise.

This General Plan seeks to minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and urban uses by directing new urban development to vacant land within the city prior to expanding the City to accommodate new growth. However, vacant land is limited within the existing City limits and the available vacant parcels are small in size and often not available for utilization. Because Biggs is surrounded on all sides by agricultural lands, some conversion of agricultural land to urban use is envisioned by this Plan and is inevitable given Biggs's need to accommodate the projected population growth of the City. As outlined in greater detail in the Land Use Element, this General Plan strives to utilize smart growth policies to efficiently use the City's land resources and to minimize the need for unnecessary or premature land conversion.

Implementation of the Land Use Plan of this General Plan will require a well-planned urban-agricultural interface as the City of Biggs is surrounded by large- and small-scale agricultural activities on all sides. As noted above, this element and the Land Use Element provide policies to address agricultural land conversion, growth planning and the agricultural-urban interface. These policies include prioritizing infill development within the existing city limits, promoting compatible compact development in new growth areas, establishing buffers areas and "edge" treatments, and promoting the continuation of agricultural activities in the Planning Area and areas surrounding the city. Policy CR-2.2 of this element, and the actions that following it, establish the City of Biggs' primary policies regarding buffering and the agricultural-urban interface.

This Plan and the policies of this element recognize that a one-size-fits-all approach to the buffering of agricultural operations does not work for the City of Biggs and the agricultural operations that surround it. Rather, the most appropriate approach to buffering will depend on the site specific nature of a project and the type of agricultural operation that is adjacent to it. A result of a customized approach to the buffering of the agricultural-urban interface area is the recognition that this Plan and this element establish minimum policy standards and present the overall concepts that the City will use when evaluating future projects.



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There are certain aspects of this discussion however that this Plan seeks to advance regardless of the specific attributes or location of future projects. A key aspect of this is the establishment of a urban growth boundary line west of Lateral K and the Riceton Road alignment and extending from Farris Road on the south to north of Afton Road on the north. Additionally, this urban growth boundary would follow the alignment of West Biggs-Gridley Road south of Farris Road to the southern extent of the City's Planning Area Boundary and continue east of the Union Pacific Railroad line to the north. As shown on the Land Use Map of this Plan, the City would remove from consideration any growth west of this line and would remove from consideration all growth potential not agriculturally related or compatible with agricultural operations to a point east of Lateral K. This Plan advances the location of the urban growth boundary line in the location shown on the Land Use Map as Lateral K and West Biggs-Gridley Road represent identifiable physical landscape features as well as the point at which large-scale irrigated crop land continues uninterrupted moving west on the valley floor.

This plan also supports the policy concepts that the presence of an adequate physical separation between developed land and agricultural land is as important as the ownership of the buffer area and acknowledges that buffer areas may not be needed as land continues to develop at the urban edge. This Plan advances those ideas in the Action items described under Policy CR-2.2.

Biological Resources

The City of Biggs, its Planning Area, and the areas surrounding it include a rich and diverse range of biological resources. Due to its location in the Sacramento Valley, Biggs is located in an area with high levels of waterfowl activity. However, the developed areas both inside and just outside of the city limits are generally less likely to contain significant wildlife resources or habitat.

There is limited evidence of protected species occurring within the developed areas of the City of Biggs. However, since detailed biological evaluations have generally not been conducted in the vicinity of Biggs, the lack of identified occurrences is not proof of the absence of protected species. While the city's environment is not known to contain threatened or endangered species, various species, including the giant garter snake, the western pond turtle, and the Swainson's hawk, are known to utilize habitats similar to those located within the Biggs Planning Area. Therefore, future development sites may require review by a qualified individual, to be approved by the City, to determine if species or habitats are present. If potential habitats or species are found, biological surveys may be required to determine the extent, viability, and approach to avoid or potentially mitigate a loss.



Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan

The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is the lead agency in the preparation of the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). BCAG is preparing the plan on behalf of its member agencies and will serve as the lead agency for the management and implementation of the plan upon adoption. The HCP/NCCP is a voluntary plan that will provide comprehensive species, wetland, and ecosystem conservation and contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity within Butte County. The intent of the plan is to streamline the environmental mitigation and permitting process for individual covered projects while taking a regional approach to ecosystem and species preservation.

The HCP/NCCP will provide a more streamlined process for environmental permitting that will be inclusive of various state and federal permitting requirements currently acquired individually. Additionally, the plan will provide broad, planning-level mapping of covered species habitat areas and will establish a program to address the handling of each covered species within the plan. The Butte Regional HCP/NCCP document has been prepared with a regional vision and establishes a regional approach to addressing species, habitat, and ecosystem conservation. The plan establishes mitigation strategies for each covered species and establishes a plan implementation strategy and funding approach for the HCP/NCCP's conservation programs.



Water Resources and Water Quality

The primary issues related to water quality in the city and Planning Area are urban stormwater runoff, groundwater use and quality, and pollutants from industrial, agricultural, and urban land uses. This element establishes a policy direction to reduce the water quality effects of urban runoff through treatment of stormwater runoff and protection of watercourses. This element addresses the need to protect surface water and groundwater quality and quantity by supporting the use of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System standards and water system efficiency and effectiveness.



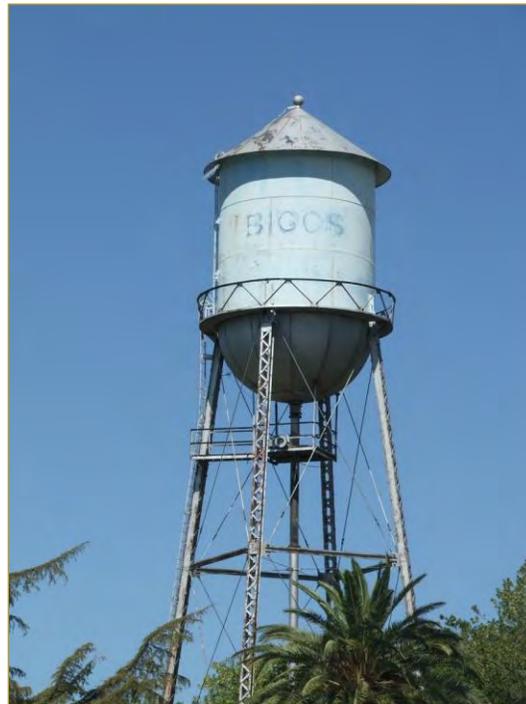
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Groundwater Resources

Groundwater represents 100 percent of Biggs's potable water supply; therefore, maintenance of groundwater quality is crucial. Potential sources of groundwater pollutants include chemicals used in the growing and processing of agricultural products, industrial sources, and improper installation of individual septic tank systems in areas containing porous soils and/or high groundwater tables.

The quality of groundwater in the Biggs Planning Area is generally good. The quality of groundwater is often affected by activities which occur outside of the city limits and therefore are beyond the City's ability to fully control. The City's primary method for protecting groundwater quality is the proper maintenance of active wells and the proper abandonment of historic wells. Appropriate well procedures can protect groundwater by ensuring that contaminants do not travel along well shafts to aquifers.

The City can also protect water quality through the land use review and approval process. While it is anticipated that new land uses will be served by the City wastewater treatment plant, it may be advantageous to allow some uses to proceed with alternative treatment methods, such as pre-treatment or package treatment plants. In such cases, it is important for the City to carefully examine the potential for groundwater quality issues that could result. Such scrutiny would also be utilized when examining future projects adjacent to Biggs on county lands through the City's role as an involved agency in the environmental review process.



Surface Water

Surface water quality is regulated by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 5 (CVRWQCB). This agency establishes water quality standards for surface water discharge within its Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan). Because the City relies exclusively on groundwater as its domestic water source, a primary concern of the City is the treatment of surface water runoff and the quality of surface water potentially entering the groundwater system.

The City of Biggs owns and operates a publicly owned WWTP, located at 2951 West Biggs Gridley Road. The facility treats wastewater and releases the treated water into Reclamation District 833 channels. This discharge method requires that the City operate under a CVRWQCB discharge permit. The standards for the treated wastewater are quite rigorous to prevent



pollutants from entering surface water. For more information concerning the WWTP, see Chapter **XX** – Public Facilities and Services.

Air Quality

Protecting air quality is a complex task that must consider local land uses and activities which generate air pollution, as well as pollutants originating outside the region that are transported by weather and wind patterns.

The Biggs Planning Area is located in the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB), and air quality is locally regulated by the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD). BCAQMD is responsible for developing and implementing the planning, regulation, enforcement, technical innovation, and education of air quality issues

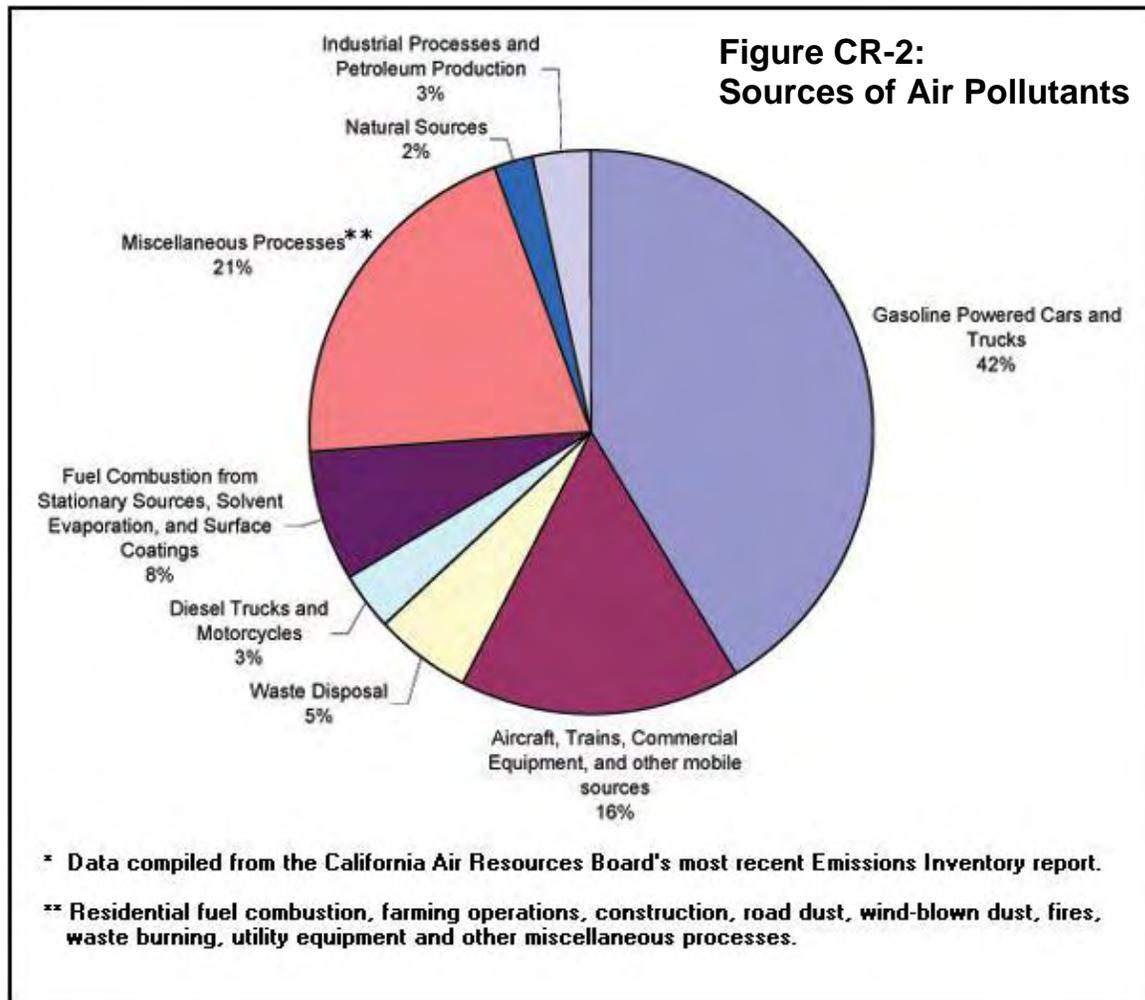
The NSVAB has been categorized as “moderately nonattainment” for ozone and particulate matter (PM), which means that the region is not meeting state or federal standards for these air pollutants. Butte County is currently in a nonattainment status with respect to the state ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} standards, as well as the federal 8-hour ozone standard.

Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) could lead to potentially significant impacts related to flooding, habitat preservation, agriculture, and air and water quality. GHGs emitted around the world all contribute to global climate change. In California, the transportation sector, including gasoline powered cars and trucks, is the largest emitter of GHGs, followed by miscellaneous processes such as residential fuel combustion, farming operations, construction, etc. (California Air Resources Board 2010). **Figure CR-2** shows a chart of data compiled by the California Air Resources Board which shows sources of air pollutants within California.

Addressing public and environmental health issues related to air quality requires not only conservation policies, but coordination between land use, circulation, health and safety, and community design policies. Because transportation is the largest source of GHGs in California, land use and transportation planning to reduce the need for driving is a fundamental focus for jurisdictions that have air quality goals. Regularly used approaches for reducing vehicle travel include placing residences within walking distance of daily destinations, developing street networks which encourage cycling and walking, and providing and increasing the viability of transit.



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State Legislation

Assembly Bill 32 (The California Global Warming Solution Act) and Senate Bill 375 (Redesigning Communities to Reduce Greenhouse Gases) are aimed at addressing the threat that climate change poses to California's economic, social, and environmental well-being.

AB 32 seeks to reduce California's GHG emissions to 1990 levels. SB 375 works to achieve AB 32 by working to reduce GHGs associated with vehicle miles traveled. To comply with AB 32 and SB 375, Biggs, along with other local jurisdictions, must coordinate land use and transportation planning according to the state's GHG reduction objectives.



III. GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Goal CR-1: Provide a range of parks and recreational facilities and opportunities for all members of the community.

Goal CR-2: Promote and protect the continued viability of agriculture surrounding Biggs.

Goal CR-3: Protect and conserve sensitive habitats suitable for special-status species.

Goal CR-4: Protect and enhance existing riparian habitat.

Goal CR-5: Protect and improve groundwater and surface water quality.

Goal CR-6: Ensure adequate long-term water supply.

Goal CR-7: Maintain and protect air quality within the City of Biggs at acceptable levels as defined by state and federal standards.

GOAL CR-1: PROVIDE A RANGE OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Policy CR-1.1 (Parkland Needs) – Provide adequate parkland acreage and facilities in both location and size to meet the recreational needs of existing and future residents.

Action CR-1.1.1 (Park Dedication Standard) – Adopt a park dedication standard of 5.0 acres of active or passive recreation land per each 1,000 residents.

Action CR-1.1.2 (Park and Recreation Master Plan) – Prepare a park and recreation master plan to serve as a guide for future park development, review future park location options, establish park development criteria and standards, refine park and recreation policies and provide use guidelines for City park and recreation facilities.

Policy CR-1.2 (Partnership and Cooperation) – Partner with local service providers, community organizations and other agencies to provide parks and recreation facilities.

Action CR-1.2.1 (Recreation Partnerships) – Continue to work with the Biggs Unified School District in the development, maintenance, and operation of school/public park sites.



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Action CR-1.2.2 (Recreation Partnerships) – Explore the possibility of partnering with the City of Gridley and Butte County to enhance recreation services to Biggs residents and to create a trail system in southern Butte County between the cities of Biggs and Gridley.

Action CR-1.2.3 (Recreation Partnerships) – Work with local service organizations, civic groups and volunteers to expand recreation options and to help facilitate the efforts of these groups to provide recreation options in the community.

Policy CR-1.3 (Parks and Recreation Facilities) – Maintain and improve the physical condition and amenities of parks and recreational buildings and facilities.

Action CR-1.3.1 (Master Plan) – Prepare a Park and Recreation Master Plan that identifies facility requirements, defines facility costs, and outlines funding options and approaches. Explore funding options for current and future parklands.

Action CR-1.3.2 (Park and Recreation Funding) – Actively Pursue local, state, federal, and other funds for the development of parks and recreational facilities.

Action CR-1.3.3 (Park Development Standards) – Develop and adopt City park development standards to guide construction of new park facilities.

Action CR-1.3.4 (Parkland Dedication) – Require that all new residential development dedicates park and recreational facilities or pays appropriate in-lieu fees.

Action CR-1.3.5 (Parkland Dedication) – Revise Ordinance 211 requirements for the dedication of parkland and facilities to reflect a standard of 5.0 acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents and to outline the specific options for dedication requirements.

Action CR-1.3.6 (Impact Fees) – Review impact fees every five years to determine whether they adequately provide funding.

GOAL CR-2: PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE SURROUNDING BIGGS.

Policy CR-2.1 (Land Use Compatibility) – Direct urban development to vacant lands within the city or to undeveloped land directly adjacent to urban development.

Policy CR-2.2 (Agricultural Buffers) – Protect agricultural resources by maintaining a clear boundary between urban, rural and agricultural uses.

Action CR-2.2.1 (Agricultural Buffers) – Require appropriate buffers for new development adjacent to active agricultural operations to ensure context-sensitive and case-sensitive solutions for potential land use incompatibilities.

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Action CR-2.2.2 (Agricultural Buffers) – Require the incorporation of a minimum one-hundred (100) foot agricultural buffer from the property line where new urban development and active agricultural operations using air-applied or forced-air applied chemicals are adjacent to each other.

Action CR-2.2.3 (Agricultural Buffers) – Allow for the use of vegetative screening and site design and grading options as methods of providing additional buffering of agricultural land uses from new development.

Action CR-2.2.4 (Agricultural Buffers) – As appropriate, consider the agricultural buffer guidelines established by the Butte Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) as part of the project review requirements for projects requiring annexation and located in an area adjacent to an active agricultural use.

Action CR-2.2.5 (Agricultural Protection Line) – Prohibit new urban development west of Lateral K and the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant and work with Butte County to ensure that no new developments of significance are located within one mile of this area.

Policy CR-2.3 (Project Review) – During the project review process, address the impacts of sitting environmentally sensitive uses in areas where conflicts with agricultural production and processing activities may result.

Policy CR-2.4 (Regional Dialogue) – Continue to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Butte County Farm Bureau and other local and regional agricultural organizations on issues related to agricultural operations and land use compatibility.

Policy CR-2.5 (Use of Land) – Plan for and allow for the developed use of designated agricultural buffer areas as the City expands and new buffer areas are established.

Policy CR-2.6 (Right-to-Farm Ordinance) Preserve and support agricultural enterprises by supporting right-to-farm policies.

Action CR-2.6.1 (Provision of Information) – Continue to evaluate and maintain the City’s right-to-farm ordinance to inform residents of ongoing agricultural processes and protect agricultural interests from dumping, nuisance complaints, and other problems associated with new residents in agricultural areas.

Policy CR-2.7 (Low-Impact Agriculture) – Encourage and support small-scale and low-impact local agricultural production within the city.

Policy CR-2.8 (Agricultural Tourism) – Support the expansion of the local agricultural tourism industry.



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GOAL CR-3: PROTECT AND CONSERVE SENSITIVE HABITATS SUITABLE FOR SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES.

Policy CR-3.1 (Biological Resources) – Applicants for projects that have the potential to negatively affect special-status species shall conduct a biological resources assessment and identify design solutions that avoid such impacts. If adverse impacts cannot be avoided, they should be mitigated as prescribed by the appropriate state or federal agency.

Policy CR-3.2 (Butte HCP/NCCP) – Actively participate in and support regional conservation planning efforts such as the Butte Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) sponsored by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) to protect habitats and species and streamline permitting requirements and timelines.

GOAL CR-4: PROTECT AND ENHANCE EXISTING RIPARIAN HABITAT.

Policy CR-4.1 (Riparian Habitat Loss) – Require new development to make all reasonable efforts to minimize and avoid the loss of federal and state protected wetlands. If loss is unavoidable, require the applicants to mitigate the loss in accordance with federal and state law.

Policy CR-4.2 (Open Space Options) – Promote the establishment of open space reserves along riparian corridors for habitat protection and enhancement as well as community connectivity and open space.

Action CR-4.2.1 (Hamilton Slough) – Pursue the development of a linear parkway and recreation corridor along Hamilton Slough in the southwestern portion of the city and require new development adjacent to the Slough to dedicate sufficient land for this intent . Include components of habitat preservation and public recreation, as well as maintaining functions of storm water and irrigation water transport.

Action CR-4.2.2 (Coordination) – Work with Reclamation District 833 on options to allow for the Slough to function as an open water way providing multiple-use benefits to include recreation, water conveyance and storm water drainage.

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GOAL CR-5: MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY.

Policy CR-5.1 (Drainage System Design) – Encourage drain system designs that emphasize infiltration and decentralized treatment (rather than a traditional conveyance to a central facility).

Policy CR-5.2 (Preservation of Existing Drainage Features) – Preserve and restore existing swales and sloughs for storm water drainage, whenever possible.

Policy CR-5.3 (Best Management Practices) – Require the use of design techniques and best management practices to reduce storm water runoff levels, improve infiltration to replenish groundwater sources, and reduce pollutants close to their source.

Action CR-5.3.1 (Improvement Standards) – Revise improvement standards as necessary to encourage use of natural drainage systems and low impact development principles in order to reduce storm water infrastructure costs and improve water quality. Emphasize the dispersal of storm water by using swales, the use of landscaped infiltration basins along roadways and parking areas, and other best management practices, as appropriate.

Action CR-5.3.2 (Improvement Standards) – Establish standards and fee programs to require and/or incentivize methods to manage and filter storm water, such as reduced pavement, permeable pavement, and retention and filtration through vegetation.

GOAL CR-6: ENSURE ADEQUATE LONG-TERM WATER SUPPLY.

Policy CR-6.1 (Water Use Analysis Studies) – Comply with portions of state law that require demonstration of adequate long-term water supply for large development projects (Senate Bills 610 and 221) and support local and regional water management objectives.

Policy CR-6.2 (New Development) – Ensure that development can provide water meeting City standards as part of the project approval process.

Policy CR-6.3 (Native Landscaping) – Encourage the use of native, drought-tolerant landscaping throughout the city to conserve water and filter runoff.

Action CR-6.3.1 (Landscaping Requirements) – Revise landscaping requirements to include drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plants.



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Action CR-6.3.2 (AB 1881) – Adopt a locally acceptable water efficiency landscape ordinance to address the requirements of AB1881.

Policy CR-6.4 Continue to implement the requirements of California Green Building Standards Code.

Action CR-6.4.1 Investigate and implement, as determined appropriate, programs to supply information, services, and equipment to homeowners and local businesses to conserve water resources within the city.

Policy CR-6.5 Participate in regional groundwater basin planning and regional water-management planning efforts to ensure future demand for water does not overdraft the groundwater supply.

Policy CR-6.6 Participate in local and regional discussions as to whether exportation of local water supplies to agencies or jurisdictions outside of the northern Sacramento Valley should be allowed or discouraged.

GOAL CR-7: MAINTAIN AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY WITHIN THE CITY OF BIGGS AT ACCEPTABLE LEVELS AS DEFINED BY STATE AND FEDERAL STANDARDS.

Policy CR-7.1 Plan and design Biggs to encourage walking, bicycling, and the use of transit.

Action CR-7.1.1 Utilize mixed land uses and walkable neighborhoods to allow residents to meet daily needs without the use of an automobile and to support viable transit.

Policy CR-7.2 Require new development projects to incorporate measures to reduce impacts to air quality as outlined by the Butte County Air Quality Management District Air Quality Handbook and the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Plan..

Policy CR-7.3 Cooperate with the Butte County Air Quality Management District in efforts to maintain air quality standards and to minimize air quality impacts associated with new development.

Policy CR-7.4 Avoid siting sensitive land uses such as homes or schools in the vicinity of agricultural processing, industrial, or other uses where odors or emissions could adversely affect the sensitive use.

Policy CR-7.5 Through the project review process, minimize adverse effects on the community of odor and emissions generated by industrial uses.