City of Biggs

Agenda Item for the
next regular City Council Meeting
June 11, 2013, 6:30pm

To: Honorable Mayor
And Members of the City Council

Date: June 6, 2013

From: Steve Speights, PE – City Engineer

Subject: Monthly Activity Report

6th Street Bridge

The project is ready to advertise for bids. We are expecting to receive Caltrans authorization of the construction phase at any time. The Notice to Contractors is ready to send to the paper as soon as we get the Caltrans ok. The Notice to Contractors sets the deadline for receipt of bids at 2pm on Tuesday July 9, 2013 at City Hall. We anticipate the need for a short special council meeting on July 16, 2013 to award the contract. We will provide plans to City Hall next week for contractor purchase. We will also send the Notice and Plans to the local Building Exchanges. There is a pre-bid meeting at City Hall scheduled for June 25th at noon to allow prospective contractors to tour the site and ask questions.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 1 Design

We reviewed the 65% plans with Public Works Staff at the Public Works Committee meeting on Thursday June 6th. Several comments were noted and additional info was requested by staff. Additional discussions will occur next week. A copy of the 65% plans is available for review in City Hall.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 1 Funding

The last piece of the application puzzle is the analysis by Bond Counsel. That is expected to confirm previous information that the City has sufficient resources to take on additional debt. Once that is submitted to SRF, we should expect a formal response to our application with a draft agreement and conditions. The draft agreement will be presented to City Council for consideration and approval.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Funding

Authorization to apply to USDA for their Grant/Loan program is subject of a separate agenda item.
The SRF application for Phase 2 is being prepared and will be ready for Council authorization to submit at the July Council meeting.
Those applications will not be considered complete until the environmental process is completed. That is anticipated to be this fall. We also need to advance the property acquisition process. I anticipate the need for a closed session at the July Council meeting to provide direction to staff.
The goal is to have all the elements: funding, design, and property acquisition, completed in January or shortly thereafter, with construction starting in the spring 2014.

MUN Study

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) study of changing the designation of the receiving waters of the treatment plant effluent from Municipal (MUN) to agriculture is at the point of beginning the environmental phase. The Board has identified four cities with expiring discharge permit dates as a study case to develop a process to de-designate their plant effluent waters from MUN. The cities are Biggs, Live Oak, Colusa, and Willows. The MUN designation was a default that erred on the side of caution without doing the necessary studies when the Board adopted the Basin Plan for the northern Sacramento valley. The MUN designation means that the receiving waters need to be protected as if the water was being used downstream for domestic purposes. The treatment requirements are much higher for discharge into a MUN designated water body. The Board has come to realize the unnecessary burden this is causing for the dischargers to ag drains with no domestic uses downstream.

The MUN study is not a high priority for the Board, but they have allocated staff time to get the study to its current state. The environmental study, though is estimated to cost around $500,000. Another local agency organization, CV-SALTS, has an interest in seeing the MUN study completed and has offered to fund the environmental cost, providing that the four cities contribute a total of $60,000 over the next two years. City staff at the other three cities has agreed to an even split of $15,000 each, subject to their council approval.

De-designating Lateral K and the Main Drain from MUN to Ag is of lesser import for Biggs than for the other cities. The Council decision to discharge to land will eliminate discharge to Lateral K. There is a benefit to Biggs, however, in de-designating Lateral K. It will make it easier to get permission for "occasional" discharges. There may be future circumstances where discharge of stored treated effluent to Lateral K would be an economical option if it had an Ag designation.
If the environmental study is not funded the work would be done by state staff and be at the mercy of the Board budgeting decisions every year.

CV-Salts is looking for a commitment. The funds could be budgeted and paid over the next two years. Staff is asking for Council direction.