City of Biggs

Agenda Item Staff Report
for the Regular City Council Meeting:
November 10, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Mark Sorensen, City Administrator
Subject: Establishing the City of Biggs as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Council is asked to consider establishing the City of Biggs as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

Background:
The Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) went into effect on January 1, 2015. This act authorizes certain local agencies to establish themselves as GSA's and then to participate in further groundwater management activities as defined by the SGMA. Among these activities is the ability to participate in the formation of Groundwater Management Plans with other GSA's within the sub-basin.

If the city does not declare itself as a GSA then it would be unable to participate in the groundwater management activities defined by the SGMA.

Many if not most of the details of the SGMA related groundwater management activities are not yet defined, but will require co-ordination of efforts with other local public agencies, particularly with those that choose to be a GSA.

Recommendation:

1) Authorize City Staff to pursue development of a City of Biggs Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
2) Authorize City Staff to pursue development of a governance structure with other eligible GSA's within the sub-basin.
3) Declare the intent of the City of Biggs to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency by passing Resolution 15-27

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH THE CITY OF BIGGS AS THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THAT PORTION OF THE EAST BUTTE GROUNDWATER SUB-BASIN OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN COTERMINOUS WITH THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BIGGS AND WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE BIGGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

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Mark Sorensen, City Administrator

Resolution 15-27

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH THE CITY OF BIGGS AS THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR THAT PORTION OF THE EAST BUTTE GROUNDWATER SUB-BASIN OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN COTERMINOUS WITH THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BIGGS AND WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE BIGGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 went into effect on January 1, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 enables the State Water Resources Control Board to intervene in groundwater basins unless a local public agency or combination of local public agencies form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency or Agencies (GSA) by June 30, 2017 (Water Code section 10735); and,

WHEREAS, retaining local jurisdiction over water management and land use is essential to sustainably manage groundwater as a critical public health resource and to the vitality of the City of Biggs's economy, communities and environment; and,

WHEREAS, any local public agency that has water supply, water management or land use responsibilities within a sub-basin may elect to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Water Code sections 10721 and 10723); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Biggs is the local agency with exclusive drinking water supply, water quality and water production management responsibilities within and for the City of Biggs; and,

WHEREAS, the exclusive source of this water supply is groundwater from the East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin; and,

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10723(a) authorizes any local agency overlying a groundwater basin to establish itself as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for that basin or portions thereof; and,

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10721(j) defines a Groundwater Sustainability Agency as one or more local agencies that implement the provisions of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed boundaries of the East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin that the City intends to manage as a Groundwater Management Agency are set forth in Attachment A and are described as the City Limits of the City of Biggs; and,

WHEREAS, establishing the City of Biggs as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency will enable the City of Biggs to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin coterminous

with and underlying the City of Biggs City Limits, together with other East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Biggs is committed to sustainable management of its groundwater resources; and,

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a "project" under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) including organizational and administrative activities of government because there would be no direct or indirect physical change in the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the City held a public hearing on this date after publications of notice pursuant to Government Code section 6066 to consider adoption of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City Council of the City of Biggs hereby declares and elects that it be and is established as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the portion of Butte County that overlies the East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin coterminous with the City of Biggs City Limits, with the powers and the duties set forth at Water Code sections 10725 et seq., and further declares its intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management.

2. That this Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall be known as the Biggs Groundwater Sustainability Agency and will use its existing legislative body for governance purposes.

3. That the City Clerk shall submit a notice of this Resolution to the State Water Resources Control Board.

4. That the Biggs Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans and will develop an outreach program for all stakeholders.

5. That the Biggs Groundwater Sustainability Agency shall establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents. Any person may request, in writing, to be placed on the list of interested persons.

6. That such notification of interested persons shall include an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and operation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing **RESOLUTION** was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Biggs, held on the 10th of November 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER _____

NOES: COUNCILMEMBER _____

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER _____

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBER _____

ATTEST: APPROVED:

_____ _____

Roben Dewsnup Roger L. Frith

CITY CLERK MAYOR

City of Biggs
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November 10, 2015

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
901 P Street, Room 213A
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Notice of Intent to Become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency
City of Biggs

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

As outlined in California Water Code, Part 2.74, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Section 10723.8, the City of Biggs hereby declares its intention to assume the role as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for that portion of the East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin that underlies the City Limits of the City of Biggs.

On November 10, 2015, the Biggs City Council held a duly noticed public hearing and passed Resolution 15-27, wherein the City resolved to become a GSA for that portion of the East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin described above and depicted in attachment (2) to this Notice and known as the Biggs Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Pursuant to Section 10723.2 of the SGMA, the Biggs GSA shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These parties include, but are not limited to:

1. Holders of overlying groundwater rights:

   This GSA's area of the East Butte Groundwater Sub-Basin is composed primarily of municipal drinking water interests.

   There are domestic wells within the GSA and the GSA anticipates that the plan will address domestic wells.

   Municipal well operators: The City of Biggs is the sole municipal well operator within the GSA, operating three wells.

2. Public water systems: see comment above regarding municipal water operators.

3. Local land use planning agencies:

   Butte County. Butte County Board of Supervisors, Butte County Public Health Department, and Butte County Water Resources Coordinator Office were provided notice and consulted during the formation of this GSA.

4. Other water, irrigation, and reclamation districts outside the GSA boundaries:

   The City of Biggs provided notice to the Biggs West Gridley Water District, the Western Canal Water District, and the Butte Water District of its intent to serve as a GSA. These entities will work together to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

5. Environmental users of groundwater: N/A for this GSA.

6. Surface water users: N/A for this GSA.

7. The federal government: N/A for this GSA.

8. California Native American Tribes: N/A for this GSA.

9. Disadvantaged communities: N/A for this GSA.

10. Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin managed by the GSA: N?A for this GSA.

The City will use its existing Council for governance purposes.

Should you have any questions, require additional information or a clarification of this Notice of Intent, please contact me at (530) 868-0100.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Mark Sorensen
City Administrator

Attachments: (1) Biggs City Council Resolution 15-27 (certified)
(2) Biggs GSA Boundary Description and Map