



City of Biggs

Agenda Item Staff Report for the Regular City Council Meeting: May 24, 2016

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 modifying the boundaries of the City of Biggs 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.

In November 2015 the City Council authorized the following

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

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. There is a great deal that we do not yet know about the ultimate uses of the related regulatory structure that is still being defined.

Among the unknowns are the implications of GSA boundaries. At the time of its filing the City of Biggs GSA used the then existing City Limits. Subsequently the city annexed approximately 162 acres, and significantly enlarged the City of Biggs sphere of influence.

State law does not allow GSA boundaries to overlap with other GSA's. Biggs' current GSA boundaries do overlap with the County of Butte, Biggs West Gridley Water District and the Butte Water District. These conflicts must be resolved. On May 19 the County of Butte, Cities and DWR (Department of

Water Resources) met in excess of two hours discussing the related issues and procedures to resolve the GSA boundary issues.

Recommendation:

Discuss the situation and direct staff.

Mark Sorensen, City Administrator