

Biggs-West Gridley Water District

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Eugene Massa Jr., Gen. Manager

September 21, 2015

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

Mark Nordberg, GSA Project Manager
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Mark.Nordberg@water.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Nordberg:

Re: Notice of Election to Serve as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8, Biggs-West Gridley Water District ("District") provides this Notice of its election to serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") for the portion of the East Butte Sub-basin of the Sacramento Valley Basin ("Basin") within the boundaries of the District, and other portions of the Basin underlying adjacent areas where District water conveyance facilities and the Thermalito Afterbay are located, as identified in Exhibit A.

The District is a California Water District formed and operating under the provisions of the California Water District Law (Wat. Code, § 34000 et seq.), and has the authority to exercise powers related to groundwater management. In 1995, the District adopted an AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan, and has been implementing projects consistent with that plan for nearly 20 years. The District has territory in both Butte and Sutter Counties, and the landowners within the District rely on water from the Basin to help meet their agricultural and domestic water needs.

On September 16, 2015, the District held a public hearing to consider whether to serve as a GSA for the Basin. The District noticed this hearing by publication in the Gridley Herald and

Appeal-Democrat, as required by Water Code section 10723(b) and Government Code section 6066. (See copy of Notice attached hereto as Exhibit B.)

The District mailed courtesy copies of the Notice to:

- Counties: County of Butte, County of Sutter
- Cities: Biggs, Gridley, Oroville, Live Oak
- Irrigation and Water Districts: Western Canal Water District, Richvale Irrigation District, Butte Water District, Sutter Extension Water District, Thermalito Water and Sewer District, Joint Water Districts, Reclamation District 1004.

At this time, the following entities have elected to become GSAs to manage portions of the Basin: Richvale Irrigation District, Western Canal Water District, and Butte Water District.

Immediately following the public hearing, the District adopted a resolution, attached as Exhibit C, approving the District's election to be a GSA, and directing the General Manager to facilitate and assist in commencing discussions as soon as practical with other GSAs and local agencies in order to begin the process of coordinating the development of groundwater sustainability plans ("GSP") for the Basin. At this time, the District has not adopted any bylaws, regulations, or ordinances in its role as GSA.

Pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8(a)(4), the District will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing GSPs. The District has communicated with parties interested in the sustainable management of groundwater in the Basin, and will continue to solicit feedback from those parties as a GSP is developed. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- ***Holders of overlying groundwater rights:***
 - *Agricultural users:* Many of the landowners throughout the District's proposed GSA management area pump groundwater for agricultural uses on their overlying land. The District has a pre-existing relationship with many of these landowners and will continue to coordinate with these landowners throughout development and implementation of its GSP.
 - *Domestic well owners:* Landowners throughout the District's proposed GSA management area also rely on groundwater to meet their domestic needs. The District's existing relationships with these landowners will provide an opportunity to coordinate with them on groundwater management efforts that may have an impact on domestic wells.
- ***Municipal well operators:*** Municipal water demands, as compared to agricultural water demands in the East Butte Sub-basin are generally negligible primarily because there is

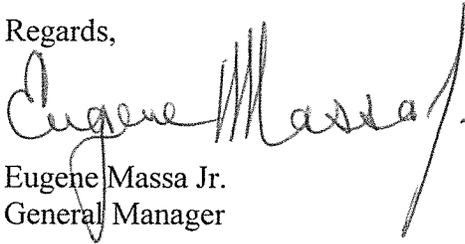
little current and projected use. The District, however, understands the importance of coordinating with the municipal operators because the operators rely primarily on groundwater to serve local communities. The District lies adjacent to the Cities of Biggs and Gridley, both of which rely on groundwater to serve their municipal needs. The District has provided these two municipalities notice of its intent to be a GSA and will coordinate in the development of its GSP with any municipal well operator that elects to develop and implement a GSP.

- **Public water systems:** N/A.
- **Local land use planning agencies:**
 - **Butte and Sutter Counties:** The District provided notice of its intention to serve as a GSA to Butte and Sutter Counties and will continue to communicate with and solicit feedback from them as it develops its GSP to ensure groundwater resources analyses are informed by land-use plans and decisions.
 - **Cities of Biggs, Gridley, Oroville, and Live Oak:** The District provided these cities with notice of its intention to serve as a GSA and will continue to communicate with and solicit feedback from them as it develops its GSP.
- **Water, Irrigation, and Reclamation Districts:** The District has a long history of coordinating with the other water, irrigation and reclamation districts throughout the Basin on water management plans and programs and will continue to coordinate as it develops a GSP.
- **Environmental Users of Groundwater:** The District delivers surface water to both Gray Lodge Wildlife Area and Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area and will coordinate with these entities as appropriate.
- **Surface water users where there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies:** N/A
- **Federal government, including managers of federal lands:** The District, through drains, provide surface water to the Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area, which is operated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The District will coordinate its groundwater management planning efforts with this refuge.
- **California Native American tribes:** N/A. None within the District's proposed management area.

- ***Disadvantaged communities, including those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems:*** N/A. District does not provide potable water to disadvantaged communities.
- ***Entities listed in Section 10927 – i.e., entities monitoring and reporting under the CASGEM program:*** Monitoring data for the East Butte Sub-basin is compiled and submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the County of Butte, and local agencies. The District will coordinate with these entities as appropriate.

If DWR has any questions, or requires any additional information regarding this notification of the District's election to serve as the GSA for the portion of the East Butte Sub-basin of the Sacramento Valley Basin within the boundaries of the District, and other portions of the Basin underlying adjacent areas where District water conveyance facilities and the Thermalito Afterbay are located, please contact the undersigned.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene Massa Jr." with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Eugene Massa Jr.
General Manager

EXHIBIT A

Exhibit A

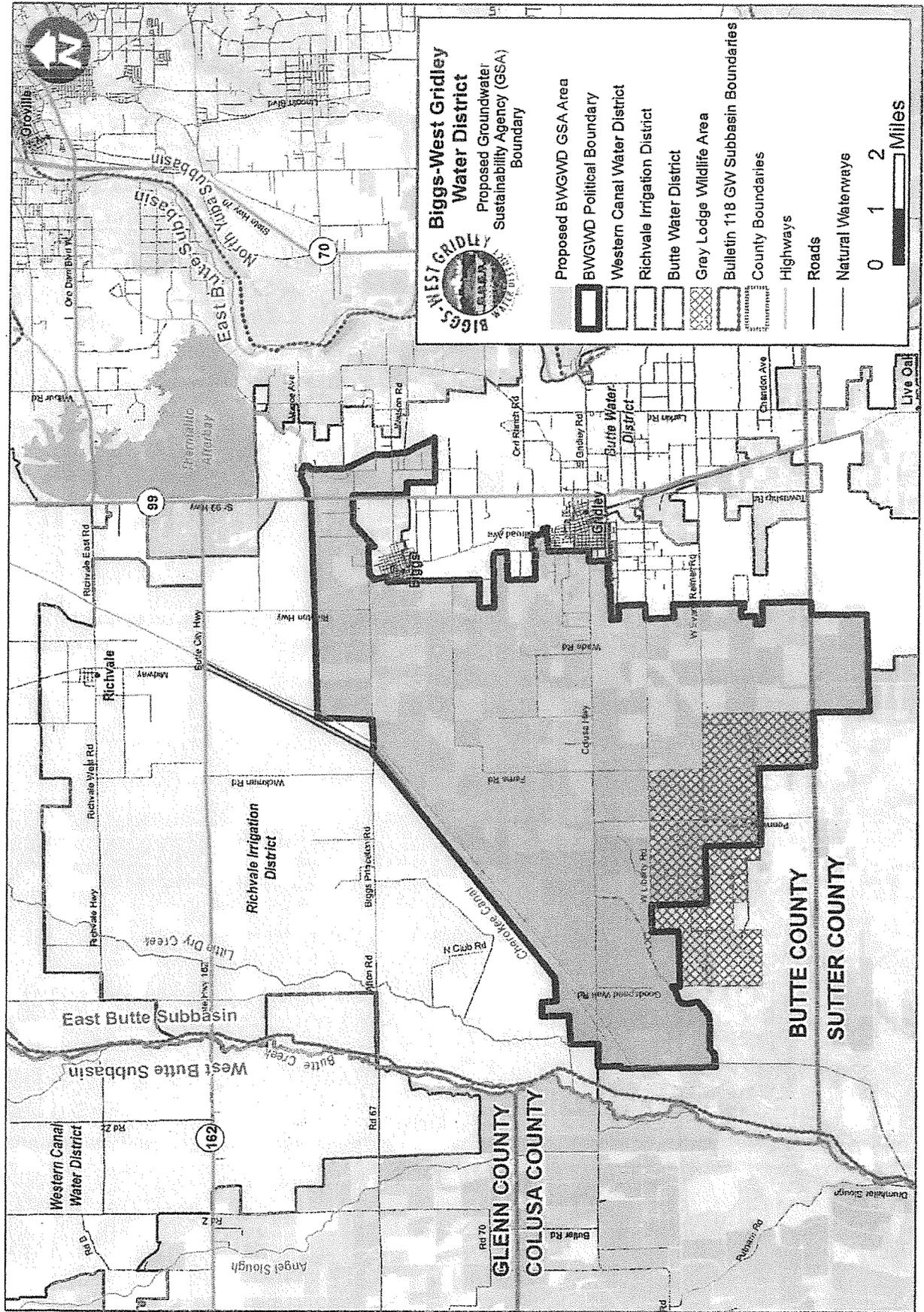


EXHIBIT B

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Biggs-West Gridley Water District (District) will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the District office at 1713 W. Biggs Gridley Road, Gridley, California, 95948. The purpose of this public hearing will be to consider public testimony on whether the District should elect to act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (California Water Code § 10720 et seq.) for the portions of the East Butte Subbasin of the Sacramento Valley Basin within the boundaries of the District, and other portions of the East Butte Subbasin underlying adjacent areas where District water conveyance facilities and the Thermalito Afterbay are located. The presiding officer may limit oral comments to a reasonable length.

August 14, 2015, Eugene Massa Jr., General Manager
Publish: September 4, 11, 2015 (The Gridley Herald)

EXHIBIT C

BIGGS-WEST GRIDLEY WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 07

**RESOLUTION OF DISTRICT ELECTION TO BECOME A GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT ACT**

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (the "Act"), which has authorized local agencies to manage groundwater in a sustainable fashion;

WHEREAS, the Act requires all high- and medium-priority groundwater basins, as designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), to be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA);

WHEREAS, the East Butte Subbasin of the Sacramento Valley Basin (designated basin number 5-21.59 in DWR's Bulletin 118) (Basin), is a medium-priority basin;

WHEREAS, in order to exercise the authority granted in the Act, a local agency may elect to become a GSA;

WHEREAS, the Biggs-West Gridley Water District (District) is a local agency as defined by the Act, and it is appropriate for the District to be the GSA for the portions of the Basin within the boundaries of the District, and other portions of the Basin underlying adjacent areas where District water conveyance facilities and the Thermalito Afterbay are located. The District Board has been presented with a map of the portion of the Basin that it intends to manage. A copy of the map is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the District published notice of its election to become a GSA for the Basin in the Gridley Herald and the Appeal Democrat, and a copy is attached hereto as Exhibit B;

WHEREAS, the District has mailed courtesy copies of the public hearing notice to various water management entities, local governments, and other interested parties throughout Butte and Sutter Counties;

WHEREAS, the District intends to work cooperatively with the Counties of Butte and Sutter and other water agencies to manage the Basin in a sustainable fashion;

WHEREAS, on this day, the District held a public hearing to consider whether it should elect to become a GSA for the Basin; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a Project under section 15378 of title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because this Resolution does not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED**, by the District Board of Directors as follows:

1. The District hereby elects to become the GSA for the portions of the Basin within the boundaries of the District, and other portions of the Basin underlying adjacent areas where District water conveyance facilities and the Thermalito Afterbay are located, as set forth in the map attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. Within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution, the General Manager is directed to provide notice of this election to DWR, as required by Water Code section 10723.8.

3. The General Manager shall facilitate and assist in commencing discussions as soon as practical with other GSAs and local agencies in order to begin the process of coordinating the development of groundwater sustainability plans for the Basin, as contemplated by the Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Biggs-West Gridley Water District on September 16, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:



President

ATTEST:



Secretary