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**BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**

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**TO:** Local Agency Formation Commission

**FROM:** Shannon Costa, Deputy Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** *LAFCo File 24-01 – Biggs-West Gridley Water District – City of Gridley Detachment No. 1*

**DATE:** February 27, 2024 for the March 7, 2024 LAFCo meeting

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**Summary**

The Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD) has proposed the detachment of 156 parcels (See **Exhibit A**). The proposal would detach parcels from the District that do not or cannot receive irrigated water because of their existing land uses and/or proximity to District facilities. Staff recommends that the sphere of influence for the District be subsequently amended to reflect a coterminous sphere of influence, consistent with past actions that have resulted in a coterminous jurisdictional boundary and sphere of influence for the District. The parcels proposed for detachment are generally located in south-west Butte County, on the westerly edge of the City of Gridley. The parcels are built-out with residential uses and/or are zoned for residential use by the City of Gridley Land Use Map. The parcels would continue to receive domestic water from the City of Gridley. The proposal was initiated by the BWGWD Board of Directors through adoption of Resolution No. 2023-04, is consistent with policies adopted by the BWGWD, Butte LAFCo polices, and is consistent with the Municipal Service review for the BWGWD adopted by the Commission in April 2007. The staff recommends approval of this proposal.

**General Application Information**

Application Submitted: December 8, 2023

Application Deemed Complete: January 8, 2023

100% Landowner Consent: No

Notice and Hearing Required: Yes

Proponent: Biggs-West Gridley Board of Directors, Resolution No. 2023-04

Landowner: Numerous

Location: The territory is generally located in southwest Butte County on the westerly side of the City of Gridley. The territory is located in Supervisorial District 4.

Proposal: Detachment of 156 parcels from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and Sphere Amendment

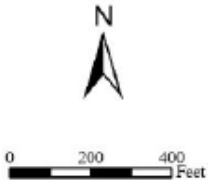
**Requested**

Action: Adopt Resolution No. 01 2023/24 (**Exhibit B**) approving the detachment of 156 parcel from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and adopt resolution No. 03 2023/24 (**Exhibit C**) amending the District’s sphere of influence for the District.

**Exhibit A**



<b>Butte Local Agency Formation Commission</b>		
24-01 - Biggs-West Gridley Water District – Sycamore Street Detachment #1		
Applicant: Biggs-West Gridley Water District	March 7, 2024	File: 24-01
Map Project File: \\GIS\DEPARTMENTS\LAFCO\Projects\File 24-01 Biggs West Gridley Water District Detachment #1\File 24-01.aprx		



## **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

### Background

The proposal consists of detaching approximately 156 parcels from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD). The project site is located in southwestern Butte County, on the westly edge of the City of Gridley. The parcels are predominantly within the Eagle Meadows, Butte View Estates, and Westside Estates neighborhoods. Lot sizes range from 0.15 acres to about 0.50 acres in size and are designated for residential uses by the City of Gridley General Plan Land Use Map. The parcels were added to the City's service area as part of various annexations in the late 1970's and 1980's. Parcels within the proposed detachment area are largely developed with residential uses and cannot be served by the District with irrigation water due to their existing/allowed land uses and their proximity to District infrastructure.

The proposed detachment would facilitate the efficient delivery of irrigation water by the BWGWD. The District was established in 1942 and serves approximately 32,000 acres of agricultural land and managed wetlands through the delivery of surface water utilizing an extensive system of laterals and canals. Approximately 85 percent of the lands within the district are cultivated crop land. The District does not provide domestic water. District policies for detachment provide that the District's "sole purpose is to provide untreated water for agricultural purposes", and that "the District has no capacity or authority to provide urban-scale irrigation or treated water". As such, new developments that would not, or could not, seek service from the District should be detached from the District.

### Sphere of Influence Amendment

The sphere of influence for the Biggs-West Gridley Water District was last affirmed in 2007 in conjunction with the adoption of the Municipal Service Review. Butte LAFCo policy provides that minor amendments to a district's sphere of influence map or plan can be made to accommodate a specific proposal. Minor amendments are those which would not have a substantial influence or impact on the agency's ability to provide comprehensive services. An amendment to a sphere of influence must demonstrate a projected need or lack of need for a service.

The proposal involves a minor amendment to the sphere of influence of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. The District's Sphere of Influence represents the long-term planned service area of the agency, which has historically been coterminous with its service boundary (i.e., the same, no sphere beyond the current service boundary). As part of this project, the sphere of influence for the District would be reduced to exclude the parcels proposed for detachment consistent with past actions that result in a coterminous sphere of influence with the jurisdictional boundary of the District.

The proposed sphere of influence amendment is minor in nature, is consistent with LAFCO Policies, will not adversely impact agricultural or designated open space lands, is consistent with the adopted 2010 Municipal Service Review for Irrigation, Drainage, and Reclamation Service Providers, and would not impact the availability of irrigation water provided by the district. This sphere of influence amendment is intended to facilitate the annexation of the parcels to the district to support the provision of irrigated water.

### Individual Factors for Consideration

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 56425(e), as part of a SOI update, the Commission is required to consider the following four factors and make appropriate determinations in relation to each of the following:

**a) The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.**

*The parcels in the territory are identified for residential uses by the City of Gridley General Plan. No change to existing land uses is proposed with the sphere of influence update. Parcels surrounding the areas identified for reorganization are primarily used for agricultural and residential purposes.*

**b) The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.**

*The proposed reorganization would remove 165 parcels from the sphere of influence of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. The parcels proposed for detachment cannot or do not receive irrigation water because of their proximity to District facilities or because of their designated land uses. Parcels would continue to receive domestic/treated water from the City of Gridley.*

**c) The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.**

*The proposed project supports the efficient delivery of irrigation water by the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. The parcels proposed for detachment cannot or do not receive irrigation water because of their proximity to District facilities or because of their designated land uses. Parcels would continue to receive domestic/treated water from the City of Gridley.*

**d) The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.**

*The Biggs-West Gridley Water District provides irrigated water to 32,000 acres of land located in western Butte County. These parcels contribute to the nearly 649,000 acres of land suited for agricultural uses in Butte County with most of the western region identified as Prime Farmland. In 2021, the estimated gross value of agricultural production in all of Butte County was approximately \$609 million. Each dollar earned within agriculture contributes to a more robust economy overall, by stimulating additional activity in the form of jobs and labor. The proposal supports ongoing agricultural uses within the affected parcels, therefore, supports the economic community of interest that is the ag-production community in Butte County.*

California Government Code §56668 provides a list of factors to be considered in the review of a proposal. The Commission's review shall include, but is not limited to, consideration of these factors:

**(a) Population; land use; topography; proximity to other populated areas; the likelihood of significant growth in the area.**

*The project site is largely built-out with residential uses consistent with land use designations identified by the City of Gridley General Plan. The parcels range in size from 0.15 acres to 0.50 acres and are relatively flat. Parcels to the west of the project site are zoned for agricultural uses by the Butte County General Plan Land Use Diagram, while parcels to the east, south, and north are identified for residential uses by both Butte County and the City of Gridley.*

*The proposal involves the detachment of the parcels from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any significant impact on populated areas or contribute to significant growth in the area.*

**(b) The need for organized community services; probable effect of the proposed annexation on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the area and adjacent areas.**

*The proposal supports the efficient delivery of irrigation water to agricultural uses in southwesterly Butte County. The Biggs-West Gridley Water District serves approximately 32,000 acres of agricultural land utilizing a complex series of canals and ditches. The proposal involves the detachment of residential parcels from the Districts boundaries. The parcels identified for detachment do not receive irrigation water because of their land use and/or proximity to District infrastructure. The parcels identified for detachment would continue to receive domestic water from the City of Gridley.*

**(c) The effect of the proposed action and of alternative actions.**

*The effect of the proposed detachment would remove parcels from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District that cannot or do not receive irrigation water because of their allowed land uses, or because of their proximity to district infrastructure. Detachment of the parcels would result in administrative cost savings for the district and further cost savings for irrigated water-users in the District.*

**(d) The conformity of the proposal with the adopted commission policies on providing planned, orderly, efficient patterns of urban development.**

*The proposal would support the efficient delivery of irrigation water to agricultural uses in southwesterly Butte County. The proposal is supported by Butte LAFCo policies that encourage consistency with municipal services reviews and that the proposal would not result in significantly reducing the efficiency of service delivery to the remaining inhabitants of the territory. The proposal would not impact patterns of urban development.*

**(e) The effect of the proposal on agricultural lands.**

*The District serves approximately 32,000 acres of agricultural land in westerly Butte County with irrigation water via a series of canals and ditches. The proposal involves the detachment of residential parcels from the District that cannot or do not receive irrigation water because of their allowed uses or proximity to District infrastructure. The detachment of the parcels would result in the more efficient and cost-effective delivery of irrigation water to agricultural parcels that rely on surface irrigation water.*

**(f) Boundaries of the territory.**

*The subject territory is parcel specific, with definite and certain boundaries. There are no known conflicts with lines of assessment or ownership.*

**(g) Consistency with city or county general and specific plans.**

*The proposal is consistent with the land use policies of Butte County. The Butte County General Plan designates the parcels within the territory for residential uses. No specific plan has been adopted for this area.*

**(h) The sphere of influence of any local agency which may be applicable to the proposal being reviewed.**

*Parcels proposed for detachment are within the service area boundary of the City of Gridley, Gridley-Biggs Cemetery District, Butte Mosquito and Vector Control District, Reclamation District 833, CSA 37 (Gridley-Biggs Ambulance District), and CSA 34 (Gridley Swimming Pool). These agencies would not be affected as a result of the detachment proposal.*

**(i) The comments of any affected local agency.**

*On December 15, 2023, LAFCo staff circulated the proposal for review and comment from local public agencies and County departments. No substantive comments were received.*

**(j) The ability of the receiving entity to provide the services.**

*The parcels within the area proposed for detachment would not receive irrigation water from any other public agency. The parcels are identified for residential uses by the City of Gridley General Plan. The City of Gridley would continue to provide domestic water to the parcels.*

**(k) Availability of adequate water supplies.**

*The proposal would support the efficient delivery of irrigation water to agricultural parcels in southwesterly Butte County by reducing the number of parcels within the district that cannot or would not receive irrigation water because of their allowed land uses or proximity to district infrastructure.*

**(l) The extent to which the proposal will affect a city or cities and the county in achieving their respective fair shares of the regional housing needs.**

*The proposed reorganization will not have any effect on any city or on the County of Butte in achieving their respective fair share of regional housing needs.*

**(m) Any information or comments from the landowner or owners, voters, or residents of the affected territory.**

*A legal notice of the public hearing for the proposed reorganization was placed in the Gridley Herald on February 16, 2024, and hearing notices were mailed to all property owners and registered voters within the affected territory. As of the date of this staff report, no public comments have been received resulting from these notices.*

**(n) Any information relating to existing land use designations.**

*Parcels within the proposed detachment area are identified for residential uses by the City of Gridley General Plan.*

**(o) The extent to which the proposal will promote environmental justice.**

*The Biggs-West Gridley Water District provides irrigation water to 32,000 acres of agricultural land in Butte County. The parcels within the detachment territory would continue to receive domestic water from the City of Gridley on onsite private wells. The proposed detachment is not expected to promote or discourage the fair treatment of minority or economically disadvantaged groups. The territory is not within a disadvantaged unincorporated community (DUC).*

Based upon the above responses, the proposal appears to be consistent with the listed factors.

**Applicable Butte LAFCo Policies**

Section 2.0 (LAFCo General Policies and Standards) and Section 4.0 (Annexation and Detachments) of Butte LAFCo Policies and Procedures provides the Commission with general standards for annexation and detachment proposals. The relevant policies for consideration and guidance for this proposal include:

- The creation of logical boundaries. (2.11.2)



- Consistency of a proposal with the Sphere of Influence and Municipal Service Review of the affected jurisdiction(s). (4.1.1)
- Determination of the most efficient service provider. (4.2)
- LAFCO shall normally discourage the detachment of territory from a high-quality service. (4.4.1)
- Sphere of Influence Consistency (3.4.6)

The proposal is substantially consistent with the above policies in that:

- The proposed detachment promotes the efficient delivery of irrigation water to agricultural parcels in southwestern Butte County.
- Detachment of the parcels would result in administrative cost savings for the district and further cost savings for irrigated water-users in the District.
- The proposal would not result in significantly reducing the efficiency of service delivery to the remaining inhabitants of the territory.

**Plan for Services: Existing Service Agencies and Proposed Service Changes**

The following table shows the services that are currently provided to the territory and the changes in service providers as a result of annexation to the City of Chico.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Presently Provided By</u>	<u>Proposed Provider</u>
Fire Protection	City of Gridley	No change
Police Protection	City of Gridley	No change
Code Enforcement	City of Gridley	No change
Sewer Service	City of Gridley)	No change
Domestic Water Service	City of Gridley and/or private wells	No change
Agricultural Water Service	Biggs-West Gridley Water District	None
Animal Control	County of Butte (CSA 164)	No change
Solid Waste	Private Collector	No change
Road/Street Maintenance	Butte County/private roads	No change
Power Infrastructure	City of Gridley	No change
Street Lighting	None/ City of Gridley	No change
Planning & Zoning	City of Gridley	No change
Schools	Gridley Unified School District	No change
Resource Conservation	Butte Co. Resource Conservation Dist.	No change
Mosquito Abatement	Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District	No change
Recreation	CSA 34 (Gridley Pool)	No change
Storm Water Drainage	City of Gridley/RD 833	No change

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Property Tax Agreement**

The Biggs-West Gridley Water District does not receive an incremental share of Butte County property taxes, therefore no property tax sharing agreement is in place or necessary to execute the proposal.

**Support/Protest**

The Biggs-West Gridley Water District conducted a noticed public hearing on August 16, 2023, at which time the detachment proposal was initiated by adoption of Resolution No 2023-04.

There are more than 12 registered voters within the area proposed for detachment, which makes the territory inhabited pursuant to Government Code §56046. On February 16, 2023, hearing notices for the Commission's March 7, 2024, public hearing on the detachment were mailed to all landowners and registered voters within 300 feet of the territory. On February 16, 2024, a legal notice regarding the Commission's March 7 hearing on the detachment proposal was published in the *Chico Enterprise Record* and placed on Butte LAFCo's webpage.

### **Conducting Authority Proceedings**

LAFCo Staff noticed the landowners and registered voters within the territory pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code §56663 (Waiver of Protest Proceedings). This section allows the Commission to waive protest proceedings for an inhabited reorganization provided:

- The public hearing for the proposed detachment and sphere of influence amendments was noticed pursuant to the requirements of California Government Code Section 56157;
- The notice discloses to the registered voters and landowners that unless written opposition to the proposal is received before the conclusion of the commission proceedings on the proposal, the commission intends to waive protest proceedings;
- The notice discloses that there is potential for the extension or continuation of any previously authorized charge, fee, assessment, or tax by the local agency in the affected territory; and
- Written opposition to the proposal from landowners or registered voters within the affected territory is not received before the conclusion of the commission proceedings on the proposal.

As of the date of this report, no written objections to the detachment proposal have been received. If a written objection is received, conducting authority protest proceedings are required to be held by LAFCo pursuant to California Government Code §57000.

### **Environmental Analysis**

The Biggs-West Gridley Water District is the lead agency for the proposal under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Via adopted of Resolution No. 2023-04, the District has determined that the project is exempt from further environmental analysis pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) – General Rule Exemption. This section can be used when the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

The General Rule exemption is appropriate for this proposal because the proposal involves only the detachment of residential parcels from the district that are not or cannot receive irrigation water for the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. The parcels would continue to receive domestic water from the City of Gridley or on-site private wells (as applicable). The subsequent sphere amendment is minor in nature and would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

As responsible agency, LAFCo is required to rely on the District's environmental documentation in acting on the proposal, but must prepare and issue its own findings. Staff has reviewed the aforementioned Categorical Exemption and believes that the District has made an adequate determination in that the proposed reorganization will not directly result in any impact to the environment.



## CONCLUSION

The proposed detachment and sphere amendment facilitates the efficient delivery of irrigation water to agricultural uses in southwestern Butte County. The proposal is supported by LAFCo policies that encourage the efficient delivery of services, establishing logical boundaries of local agencies consistent with municipal service reviews and spheres of influence, and avoiding adverse impacts on service recipients. The parcels proposed for detachment cannot and will not receive irrigation water from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District due to their allowed land uses and proximity to district infrastructure. The proposal would result in cost savings for the district.

## ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

After reviewing this report and any testimony or materials that are presented, the Commission can take the following actions:

### Action 1

OPTION 1 – APPROVE the proposal as submitted:

- A. Adopt Resolution 01 2023/24 making determinations approving the detachment of 156 parcels from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District.
- B. Find that the proposed reorganization is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).
- C. Pursuant to California Government Code §56663 (Waiver of Protest Proceedings) the Commission waives protest proceedings for the reorganization if no written objections to the proposed annexation are received from any landowner or registered voter within the territory prior to the close of the public hearing on the annexation.
- D. If written objections to the proposed reorganization are received from any landowner or registered voter within the territory prior to the close of the public hearing on the reorganization, the Commission directs the Executive Officer to set the proposal for a protest hearing and give public notice of said hearing pursuant to Butte LAFCo Policy and California Government Code Section 57002.

OPTION 2 - DENY the proposal.

OPTION 3 - CONTINUE the proposal to a future date.

### Proposed Motion:

*I move that the Commission adopt resolution 01 2023/24 making determinations approving the detachment identified as Biggs-West Gridley Water District – Sycamore Street Detachment No. 1 subject to the condition herein, finding that no subsequent environmental review is necessary pursuant CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), and waiving protest provisions pursuant to Government Code Section 56663.*

## Action 2

OPTION 1 – APPROVE the proposal as submitted:

- C. Adopt Resolution 03 2023/24 making determinations approving the minor sphere amendment of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District.
- D. Find that the proposed reorganization is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

### Proposed Motion:

*I move that the Commission adopt resolution 03 2023/24 making determinations approving the minor sphere amendment for the Biggs-West Gridley Water District subject to the condition herein, finding that no subsequent environmental review is necessary pursuant CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).*

### Attachments:

Exhibit A: Area Map  
Exhibit B: Draft LAFCo Resolution No. 01 2023/24  
Exhibit C: Draft LAFCo Resolution No. 03 2023/24

### Distribution:

LAFCo Commission  
Danny Robinson, General Manager, Biggs-West Gridley Water District  
email: [drobison@bwgwater.com](mailto:drobison@bwgwater.com)

**RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE COUNTY OF BUTTE MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND ORDERING THE  
DETACHMENT OF TERRITORY DESIGNATED AS 24-01 BIGGS-WEST GRIDLEY WATER  
DISTRICT – SYCAMORE STREET DETACHMENT NO. 1**

**RESOLVED**, by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte, State of California, that,

**WHEREAS** a proposal for the detachment of certain territory from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District in the County of Butte was heretofore filed by the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and accepted for filing on January 10, 2023, by the Executive Officer of this Local Agency Formation Commission pursuant to Title 5, Division 3, commencing with Section 56000 of the Government Code; and

**WHEREAS** the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56658, set March, 7, 2024, as the hearing date on this proposal and gave the required notice of public hearing; and

**WHEREAS** the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56665, has reviewed this proposal and prepared a report, including recommendations thereon, and has furnished a copy of this report to each person entitled to a copy; and

**WHEREAS** this Commission called for and held a public hearing on the proposal on March 7, 2024, and at the hearing, this Commission heard and received all oral and written protests, objections, and evidence that were made, presented, or filed, and all persons present were given an opportunity to hear and be heard with respect to this proposal and the report of the Executive Officer; and

**WHEREAS** this Commission considered the factors determined by the Commission to be relevant to this proposal, including, but not limited to, factors specified in Government Code Section 56668; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte **DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER** as follows:

**Section 1.** Environmental Findings:

- A. Find that the project as proposed by the Biggs-West Gridley Water District is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per Section 15061(b)(3), the commonsense exemption, the CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The Commission certifies that it has considered the Categorical Exemption determined by the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and finds that there are not sufficient grounds to require supplementing with further environmental documentation.

**Section 2.** General Findings and Determinations:

- A. The Commission has considered the factors determined by the Commission to be relevant to the detachment including planned land uses, the potential conversion of agricultural and open space lands, the need for municipal services, the availability of services, and

the existence of any social or economic communities of interest as discussed in Government Code Sections 56425, and as described in the staff report dated February 28, 2024, for the meeting of March 7, 2024.

- B. The detachment area involves approximately 156 parcels generally located in southwesterly Butte County on the westerly edge of the City of Gridley, as submitted by the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and as depicted in "Exhibit A."
- C. The subject area is found to be inhabited and is assigned the following short form designation: 24-01 – Biggs-West Gridley Water District – Sycamore Street Detachment No. 1.
- D. The proposal is consistent with the Sphere of Influence for the Biggs-West Gridley Water District, as amended by the Commission in April 2007.
- E. The proposal involves the detachment of 156 parcels from the Biggs-West Gridley Water District to facilitate the efficient delivery of irrigation water in western Butte County.
- F. The parcels involved cannot or do not receive irrigation water from the district because of their existing land use or because of their proximity to district facilities.
- G. The parcels would continue to receive domestic water provided by the City of Gridley, as available.
- H. Pursuant to Butte LAFCO Policy 2.13.1, the Commission determines that agricultural and/or open space lands will not be adversely affected by this proposal as the proposal involves the provision of irrigated water to the parcels to support current and future agricultural uses consistent with the Butte County General Plan. No Williamson Act Parcels would be affected by the proposal.
- I. Pursuant to California Government Code §56663 (Waiver of Protest Proceedings) the Commission waives protest proceedings for the annexation as no written objections to the proposed annexation were received from any registered voter within the territory prior to the close of the public hearing on the annexation.

**Section 3.** Conditions requested by LAFCO:

- A. All LAFCO, County of Butte and State of California fees must be paid in full prior to filing the Certificate of Completion.
- B. The legal description and map, if amended by action of the Commission, will be revised at the expense of the applicant, prior to filing the Certificate of Completion.
- C. The map and legal description shall comply with the State Board of Equalization requirement and if rejected by the State Board of Equalization, will be revised at the expense of the applicant.

**Section 4.** The boundaries, as set forth in the proposal or as amended by action of the Commission, are hereby approved as submitted and are as depicted in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.

**Section 5.** Further protest proceedings are waived and the Commission orders the detachment, pursuant to Part 4 commencing with Section 57000.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01 2023/24**

**Section 6.** The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail certified copies of this Resolution as provided in Section 56882 of the Government Code.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by this Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024 by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAINS:**

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Clerk of the Commission

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**BILL CONNELLY**, Chair  
Butte Local Agency Formation Commission

**RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE COUNTY OF BUTTE MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND APPROVING  
A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT TO THE BIGGS-WEST GRIDLEY WATER DISTRICT**

**RESOLVED**, by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte, State of California, that,

**WHEREAS**, a proposal for a minor amendment to the Biggs-West Gridley Water District's Sphere of Influence is proposed by the Executive Officer of this Local Agency Formation Commission pursuant to Title 5, Division 3, commencing with Section 56000 of the Government Code; and

**WHEREAS** the Commission has identified a need to amend the Sphere of Influence for the Biggs-West Gridley Water District, subsequent to the detachment of parcels from the District to support the efficient delivery of irrigation water within the District's jurisdiction to support ongoing agriculture uses and to reduce reliance on pumped groundwater; and

**WHEREAS** the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56427, set March 7, 2024, as the hearing date on this proposal and gave the required notice of public hearing; and

**WHEREAS** the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56428, has reviewed this proposal and prepared a report, including her recommendations thereon, and has furnished a copy of this report to each person entitled to a copy; and

**WHEREAS** this Commission called for and held a public hearing on the proposal on March 7, 2024, and at the hearing, this Commission heard and received all oral and written protests, objections, and evidence that were made, presented, or filed, and all persons present were given an opportunity to hear and be heard with respect to this proposal and the report of the Executive Officer; and

**WHEREAS** this Commission considered the factors determined by the Commission to be relevant to this proposal, including, but not limited to, factors specified in Government Code Section 56425 and 56668; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte **DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER** as follows:

**Section 1.** Environmental Action:

- A. Find that the project as proposed by the Biggs-West Gridley Water District is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per Section 15061(b)(3), the commonsense exemption, the CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The Commission certifies that it has considered the Categorical Exemption determined by the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and finds that there are not sufficient grounds to require supplementation with further environmental documentation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03 2023/24**

**Section 2.** General Findings and Determinations:

- A. The Commission has considered the factors determined by the Commission to be relevant to the Sphere of Influence Amendment including planned land uses, the potential conversion of agricultural and open space lands, the need for municipal services, the availability of services, and the existence of any social or economic communities of interest as discussed in Government Code Sections 56425, and as described in the staff report dated February 28, 2024 for the for the meeting of March 7, 2024.
- B. The subject area is found to be inhabited and is assigned the following short form designation: 24-01 – Biggs-West Gridley Water District – Sycamore Street Detachment No. 1.
- C. The Commission determines that a minor amendment to a district’s sphere of influence map or plan can be made to accommodate a specific proposal. Minor amendments are those which would not have a substantial influence or impact on the agency’s ability to provide comprehensive services.
- D. An amendment to the Sphere of Influence of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District is consistent with past actions that result in a coterminous sphere of influence and jurisdictional boundary for the Biggs-West Gridley Water District. The proposal supports the efficient delivery of irrigation water to western Butte County.
- E. The Sphere Amendment involves reducing the District’s sphere subsequent to the detachment of 165 parcels from the District. The parcels are generally located in southwestern Butte County on the westerly edge of the City of Gridley.
- F. The Commission determines that the proposal would support ongoing agricultural uses in western Butte County. The Biggs-West Gridley Water District provides irrigation water primarily to agricultural uses and does not have the capacity to serve urban uses or domestic water. The parcels would continue to receive domestic water from the City of Gridley. development is proposed at this time.
- G. The Commission determines that the Sphere of Influence Amendment is minor in nature and is not related to a systematic review of the District’s Sphere of Influence as addressed in Section 56430.

**Section 3.** The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail certified copies of this Resolution in the manner and as provided in Section 56853 of the Government Code.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by this Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024 by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**



**ABSTAINS:**

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Clerk of the Commission

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**BILL CONNELLY**, Chair  
Butte Local Agency Formation Commission