



## CITY OF BIGGS NEWSLETTER

WHERE THE PEOPLE OWN THE WATER AND THE WATER

MAY 2012

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### Getting into the weeds

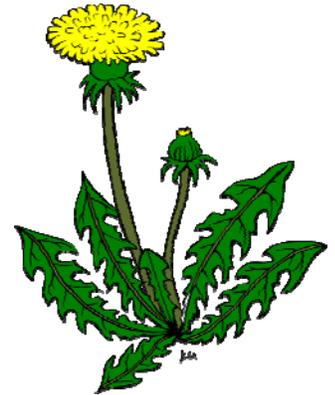
Weeds are growing early and fast this year. Tall weeds present a public nuisance for fire hazard and rodent harborage, not to mention visual blight.

*Please keep grass and weeds cut down on your property.*

Fines for uncut weeds identified as a nuisance code violation are \$100 for a first offense. Repeat offenders – that is, property owners who have to be notified by the city more than once in a year – are subject to “frequent violator” fines of up to \$500 plus \$100 per day until the nuisance is abated.

Property liens may also be filed for the city to cover its cost to cut the weeds.

See Biggs Municipal Code 6.25, available at the city website, for more information.



### City Revising Marijuana Rules

The City Council recently revised local regulation of “medical marijuana” cultivation. Growing can only occur in a secure, alarm-protected, detached structure. The size of the grow area is limited, and in no case can it be less than 500’ from a school or church. More details are in the code text which can be found on the city website or by contacting city hall.

The city’s ordinance is designed to permit the exercise of whatever legal rights might exist, while protecting neighbors from the nuisance of the smell and sight of marijuana – which tends to attract criminal activity to neighborhoods.

### Fence Locations

The City also recently revised its fence permit regulations.

Now Biggs Municipal Code allows for decorative, low-height fences in residential front yards even if there may be conflicts with certain right-of-way or setback requirements, under specified conditions.

The ordinance describes the fence types and location conditions. More details, and fence permit applications, are on the city website (see City services-Planning-Documents) and available at city hall.



#### YOUR COUNCIL:

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## CITY OF BIGGS

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## Council Changes Meeting Time

Biggs city council regular monthly meetings, starting May 8, will be held the second Tuesday of each month starting at 6:30pm. The council hopes this change will enable and encourage more citizens to visit the meetings. Agendas will continue to be posted the previous Friday evening at the post office bulletin board and on the city website.



## Biggs Goes Solar



There are now three residences in Biggs sporting rooftop solar panels. In addition to possible state and federal rebates and tax benefits, the City has a program to assist homeowners and business owners through rebates depending on the size and efficiency of the installation. A new round of funding becomes available this summer. Contact Marlee at 868-5493 for more information.

## WWTP Upgrade

Like all municipal and district sewer systems throughout the State of California, Biggs faces an expensive remodel or replacement of its waste water treatment plant (WWTP) to meet strict new federal and state regulations. The city has decided to not pursue the type of complex technology plant many of our regional neighbors have recently installed at a cost of tens of millions of dollars, as even those are fast becoming inadequate to meet ever-changing regulations.

The city council directed the city engineer to work on a simpler, more cost-effective system that occupies more space but is more flexible and less costly to operate. Customer rate increases will be less than they would be with the more expensive systems. We are working with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to plan this change and implement it over the next year or two.



## April is a Special Month

Blue ribbons around town last month reminded us that it was Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Autism Awareness Month. The city proclamations are online at the city website.

April was also National Volunteer Month. Biggs salutes its many volunteer citizens who perform countless hours of selfless service for the schools, the city, youth sports, Lions Club, BCAV, Hometown Celebration, flags and so much more!

***We appreciate the difference you make in our community!***

## Like to Run?

American Cancer Society  
"Relay for Life" invites Biggs to join in: Aug 4-5 at Gridley High. Call Paula at 229-4416.



***WE'RE ON THE WEB!***

***WWW.BIGGS-CA.GOV***