

# GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT

## Board Member FAQs for Interested Parties

**History** - The Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) was formed in 1942 to serve the rural agricultural area known as Goleta. GSD has evolved overtime in response to the needs of the community and has become a regional service provider that serves over 80,000 residents in the Goleta Valley including the City of Goleta, unincorporated parts of the County of Santa Barbara, UCSB, Isla Vista and the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport.

**Facilities** - The District owns and operates a 9 MGD waste water treatment plant, a 3 MGD recycled water facility, 2 pump stations, and over 130 miles of underground pipelines. The total value of the assets owned and maintained by GSD exceed \$100M.

**Authority** - GSD is an independent special district, not part of the City of Goleta or other government agency. Special districts are voted into existence by the citizens they serve and are sanctioned under California law to perform specific local government functions within certain boundaries. GSD derives its authority in the California Health & Safety Code (Sections 6400-6830).

**Governing Board** - The District is governed by a five-member board elected at large on staggered elections in November in even numbered years. Board members are residents of the community they represent and serve four-year terms. The Governing Board is the legislative body that holds governing authority for the District, is responsible for establishing District policies, and determines whether such policies are being implemented by the General Manager. The Board appoints and evaluates the General Manager but is not responsible for the day-to-day management or operations of the District.

**Organization** – The District currently has 35 full time employees that are assigned to the following four departments; Administration, Collections System, Operations and Maintenance.

**Candidate Requirements** - Candidates for the Board must be a registered voter at least 18 years of age, and live within the boundaries of the District as shown in the following link:

<http://goletasanitary.org/images/GSD%20Boundry%20Map%209-15-14.pdf>

**Board Member Duties and responsibilities** - The Governing Board of the Goleta Sanitary District meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings vary in length but typically last two hours. The meeting agenda packet is posted a minimum of 72 hours in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting and a minimum of 24 hours in advance of a special meeting. Board members are expected to review the materials prior to the meeting. This usually requires 1-2 hours. The Board has established several committees which meet approximately once a quarter during weekday afternoons. These committees include the Engineering, Finance, Personnel, and Outreach/Public Education. Board members are appointed to serve on the committees based on their experience and background.

Additionally, Board Members may be appointed to represent the District as a liason to other contracting agencies (Goleta West Sanitary District or Goleta Water District) and may attend various conferences and training seminars put on by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies and the California Special District Association.

The District is independently audited and subject to state and public scrutiny. Board members go through mandated harassment and ethics training on a bi-annual basis and are subject to laws including the Ralph M. Brown Act, and conflict of interest filing with the County Elections Office as it relates to the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

Board members are compensated for attendance at all regular and special board meetings and for all standing committees to which they are appointed at the rate of \$209.82 per meeting.

**Please contact the District at 805-967-4519, or [swagner@goletasanitary.org](mailto:swagner@goletasanitary.org) if you have any questions.**