



Protecting Public Health and the Environment



Plant Refurbishment Completed - Much More to Come

We are in the midst of many upgrade and improvement projects to Goleta Valley's treatment plant and sewer system.

The treatment plant refurbishment project was just completed, two new sewer line projects have just begun, and plans are almost finished for the treatment plant upgrade project.

The infrastructure improvement projects summarized in this newsletter are designed to protect our beautiful coastline.



The refurbishment program is updating worn equipment—like the Biofilter Distributor shown above. Some of the replaced equipment dated back to the 1960s, and required replacement to maintain treatment plant operations and improve reliability.

A local contractor, Cushman Construction, built this project.

All the construction projects described in this newsletter are critically needed to protect our beautiful coastline.



Installation of new high-efficiency pumps.

Improved Reliability and Efficiency

Urgently needed refurbishments included installation of new high-efficiency pumps, replacing aging pumps that required increased maintenance, more energy to operate and had developed a high potential for failure.



New Chemical Containment area shown under construction.

Aging chemical storage tanks were also replaced with new tanks that are structurally stronger, decreasing the potential for leakages. A covered structure was built to protect the tanks, pumps and piping from the weather, maximizing the useful life of the new equipment.



Building and Improving Our Treatment Facilities

Major Upgrade To Start Soon, Improvements to Benefit All

The major upgrade construction will begin early next year and will bring the treatment plant to full secondary quality, add redundancy and backup systems, and incorporate features that will allow the plant to be cost-effectively modified to meet future, stricter requirements. The project design is complete, the environmental review documents and geotechnical reports have been completed, and nearly all permits have been received.

Construction to upgrade the treatment plant to full secondary quality is expected to take three years and estimated to cost \$50 million. The upgrades will provide community and environmental benefits, including:

- ▶ Higher level of treatment that will meet full secondary treatment standards as well as future, stricter requirements.
- ▶ More energy efficient motors, pumps, and other environmentally helpful improvements.
For example, an old diesel dredge will be replaced with a cleaner electric model.



Geoprobos used to conduct the archaeology study prior to the treatment plant upgrade project.



Trench for the earthquake fault study conducted prior to the treatment plant upgrade project.

REMINDER FOR BIRD WATCHERS: Treatment Plant Construction May Require Temporary Closure to Bird Watching

Goleta Sanitary District's treatment ponds provide habitat for a variety of birds. Occasionally a rare species is spotted, for example, a curlew sandpiper in 1999 and a pectoral sandpiper in 2009.

Construction of the treatment plant upgrade may require us to temporarily close public access to the area due to safety concerns.

So, you may want to get in some bird watching at the site before construction starts later this year. And, don't worry, we will protect the birds during the construction period.



*Pectoral Sandpiper photo
courtesy of Doug Greenberg.*

and Sewer System for Today and Our Future



Pipeline and Pump Station Improvements Underway

Grant Pays \$1.5 Million of Project Cost

Erosion along San Pedro Creek threatened an old sewer pipe. To protect the creek and the pipe, a new larger pipeline will be installed along Fairview Avenue from Hollister Avenue to Fowler Road. The District was awarded a \$1.5 million state grant from Proposition 50 funding for the project, which is expected to cost a total of \$3.3 million. A local contractor, Lash Construction, was awarded the contract.

New Pump Station To Increase Reliability, Efficiency

The District's sewer pipeline system is designed to flow by gravity for reliability and to avoid the cost of pumping. However, in a few places pumping can't be avoided. The Firestone pump station and pressurized sewer pipelines are being installed near the airport to replace an old pump station that had reached the end of its useful life.

The City of Santa Barbara is sharing the cost and collaborating on design and construction, since it will serve both the District and the airport. The project includes new high-efficiency pumps and motors, automated controls, and an emergency backup generator. Tierra Construction, a local company, was awarded the contract.



The new pump station on Firestone Road replaces an old one located at Hollister Avenue.



A new sewer pipeline is being built along Fairview Avenue.



The new sewer pipeline will replace an aging pipeline along San Pedro Creek.



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No Rate Increase This Year: Thanks to good long term planning, no rate increase is currently needed to pay for our share of the estimated \$50 million treatment plant upgrade.

Cost Shared Fairly: The treatment plant is owned and operated by Goleta Sanitary District to serve its own customers. But the District also serves others agencies under contract: Goleta West Sanitary District, UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Airport, and Santa Barbara County. Each user pays its fair share, with Goleta Sanitary District customers paying about half through their current sewer rates.

DO YOUR PART: Help Us Protect the Goleta Valley Environment

Our full time pollution control officer works with residents and businesses to stop contaminants before they get into the drain. Here are some of our top tips for residential customers to help us stop pollution at the source.

Keep Fats, Oils and Grease Out of Your Drains

Fats, oils and grease harden inside sewer pipes and lead to blockages and spills. Never pour grease or oil down the drain. Instead, wipe greasy dishes with paper towels, place into a closeable container, and throw it into the trash.



Never Flush Old Pharmaceuticals

The treatment plant is not able to fully remove old pharmaceuticals that may adversely impact fish. Safely dispose of unwanted medications through Santa Barbara County's Operation Medicine Cabinet. Drop off stations are located at each of the Sheriff's nine substations throughout the county.



Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste

Take hazardous waste to the free Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center by the UCSB campus near Mesa Road at Building 565 in Goleta.

For information call (805) 882-3602.



For more information on pharmaceutical disposal and drop off sites: call (805) 882-3615 or visit www.LessIsMore.org.