



Protecting Public Health and the Environment

## Progress Report on Treatment Plant Upgrade

**Goleta Sanitary District's regional wastewater treatment plant, serving the entire Goleta Valley, is making significant progress in meeting its upgrade project milestones.**

Goleta Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant was originally built in 1951 and substantially upgraded in 1988. The current plant provides a blend of primary and secondary treated wastewater that is disinfected, then safely discharged into the ocean. In addition, the plant provides a higher level of treatment, called tertiary, that produces valuable recycled water for use by Goleta Water District.



### Converting to a Higher Treatment Level

The many-faceted upgrade project converts the current blended secondary treatment process to the full secondary level.

The current treatment process protects public health and the environment, and complies with all current standards. Yet, the upgraded plant, with its higher level of treatment, will conform to ever-increasing regulations, including new requirements that also protect the environment, increase operating efficiency, and better utilize treatment byproducts.

The transition to a new level of treatment has involved careful, step-by-step planning. The goal is a project that does the best job at the lowest long-term cost. Numerous options for different designs, treatment methods, and financing were considered before the current plan was adopted.



*The upgrade planning process is now in the design and environmental review stage. The basic design is expected to be completed in 2010, with construction due to start in 2011. Completion of the upgraded plant is scheduled in 2014.*

# Community Will Benefit from Treatment Plant Upgrade



## More Environmentally Friendly

The upgraded plant will feature environmental improvements, such as more energy-efficient motors, pumps, blowers and other equipment. The ability to efficiently add cogeneration will be incorporated into the design. The plant will not only be more environmentally friendly, but also will save money on energy costs.



## More Recycling of Wastewater Byproducts

Besides providing a higher level of wastewater treatment, Goleta Sanitary District's plant upgrade will expand its recycling of wastewater treatment byproducts:

- Increased production and use of methane gas from the treatment process as a fuel for heating the plant digesters.
- Ability to provide increased production of recycled water to be used as needed by Goleta Water District.
- Continued production of Class A biosolids that will still be available for use in home lawns and gardens.



## More Efficient Treatment Process

The upgraded treatment process will provide many operational advantages:

- **Meet future regulatory requirements.** Anticipated future requirements, such as increased removal of nutrients and other pollutants, will be more easily met.
- **Reliable.** The plant will be able to more effectively handle fluctuations in wastewater flow and strength.
- **Flexible.** The treatment process will be easier to maintain. If a portion of the process is shut down for maintenance, the plant will continue to operate effectively.
- **Comparable Costs.** The proposed process will have operation costs comparable to the existing plant.

# Funding the Treatment Plant Upgrade

To finance its share of the treatment plant upgrade, the District has adopted a pay-as-you-go approach to pay for the initial design phase and environmental review of the project.

Pay-as-you-go is the lowest cost, most fiscally responsible funding method until a low-interest State Revolving Loan can be secured. The District is currently applying for the low-interest loan to finance construction costs.

**Need for Increase.** The current charge is \$24.86 a month per single family residence or equivalent residential unit. The sewer service charge is based on the cost to collect, transport, treat, and dispose of wastewater for the entire Goleta Valley.

Because of the need to raise additional revenue, a sewer service charge increase has been proposed. Virtually all of the additional funds would be used for the treatment plant upgrade, totaling about \$8 of the proposed \$9 monthly increase (total of \$33.86 per month) for a single family residence. This is possible because the District's operating costs have remained stable.

Non-residential customers will have a proportional increase based on the flow and strength of their wastewater.



**Charges Collected on Tax Bill.** District charges are collected on the property tax bill. The new charge would take effect in July 2008 and would be collected with the November 2008 property tax bill.

## Plant Users Sharing Costs

The total cost of the treatment plant upgrade is estimated at \$35 million, with Goleta Sanitary District's share at about \$17 million. The total cost will be shared by all the users of the plant, Goleta West Sanitary District, Santa Barbara Municipal Airport, UC Santa Barbara, and portions of Santa Barbara County.

# Help Us Protect the Environment



## Here is What You Can Do to Help:

### 1. Don't Pour Hazardous Waste Down the Drain.

Collect your household hazardous materials and take them to a hazardous waste disposal center. For information, phone 805-882-3602.

### 2. Keep Fats, Oil and Grease Out of the Sewer.

Don't put fats, oils and grease into sinks or sewers. Wipe greasy dishes with a paper towel and dispose of it in the trash.

### 3. Inspect and Maintain Your Sewer Lateral.

The sewer lateral runs from your building to the District's main sewer in the street. Have the lateral inspected and repaired, especially when purchasing a new property. Before cleaning or de-rooting your lateral, please contact the District.

### 4. Pick Up FREE Biosolids to Beautify Your Garden.

Just call the District office at 805-967-4519 to arrange for a free pickup of biosolids. We will help you load your truck, or you may bag a small amount yourself. It makes a great soil amendment.

### 5. Trash Your Medicine.

Don't flush old and leftover medications down the drain. Wrap them tightly and place in the trash.

For more information, see the inside pages or contact the District Office at (805) 967-4519.

The District's Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on a proposed sewer service charge increase on June 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the District Board Room at One William Moffett Place, Goleta.

## PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SEWER SERVICE CHARGE INCREASE

Printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.

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