



**GOLETA SANITARY**  
Water Resource Recovery District



*Continuing Our Commitment to Sustainability*

**SUMMER 2022**

## NO RATE INCREASE FOR FY22-23

For the third year in the row the Governing Board of the Goleta Sanitary District declined to raise rates for the fiscal year beginning July 2022, keeping rates for collection, treatment, and resource recapture of wastewater among the lowest in Santa Barbara County. This has been done despite rising costs in materials, trucking, and utilities. How is this possible – by adapting cost efficiencies (like fine-tuning chemical usage) and by applying new innovative technologies to the processes, we have avoided the costs that have plagued others.



As the District moves forward with ambitious projects to serve the community and reduce long-term costs, these planned construction improvements will require substantial investment. To ensure our financial viability, we anticipate completing a rate study for the next fiscal year. The good news is that the investments will help in our long-term financial stability.

## DISTRICT RECEIVES HIGHEST LEVEL AWARD FROM STATE ASSOCIATION



The District is proud to have been awarded the District of Distinction, Platinum Level by the California Association of Special Districts' Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). This state-wide association recognizes achievements in governance, transparency and professionalism. This is the second time that GSD has received this prestigious honor. To be considered for the award, the District had to first achieve the following:

- The Certificate of Transparency Award
- Recognition in Governance Awards and Training for all Board Members and,
- The Special District Administrator Certification of the General Manager

The Platinum award is the SDLF's highest level of recognition. The District is delighted to be one of only 11 special districts (among 1300 special districts in California) to receive this distinguished honor.

For more information regarding the Special District Leadership Foundation please visit [www.sldf.org](http://www.sldf.org).

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[GoletaSanitary.org](http://GoletaSanitary.org)



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# PHASE 1 OF BIOSOLIDS AND ENERGY STRATEGIC PLAN CONSTRUCTION

The District has completed the environmental review process and is obtaining various regulatory permits for the construction of Phase 1 of the Biosolids and Energy Strategic Plan (BESP). The planned significant improvements will bring energy-efficient cost savings and reduce our carbon footprint.

Phase 1 includes:

- A new 550,000-gallon anaerobic digester which replaces the aging Digester #1. The new digester includes auxiliary equipment: mixing apparatus, cover, and heating elements. The design allows sufficient capacity for the plant should any existing digester go out of service.
- A Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system featuring one new 160-kilowatt (kW) electricity generator to be fueled by our own digester gas. Waste heat from the CHP engine will be used to heat the digesters. Additionally, the two existing digester gas booster blowers will be replaced with two new blowers to match the engine.
- A biogas pretreatment system to reduce hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), siloxanes, and moisture in the digester gas used to fuel the CHP engine.

Scheduled to start construction in Spring 2023, the BESP Phase 1 project should finish by Spring 2024. Completing this phase of the plan will allow the District to convert biogas to electricity, reduce energy demand, operations costs, and greenhouse gas emissions. Importantly, this project will also improve resiliency during power outages.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION TOURS UPDATE

The District is pleased to offer public education tours again to the general public. Starting in September, we will offer a tour for a maximum of 20 people, once per quarter. The first tour is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Tours typically last 1.5 hours, and require moderate to heavy walking. Times and dates are subject to change.

For more information, questions, and future dates, or to sign up please visit our website, [www.goletasanitary.org](http://www.goletasanitary.org), or call **805-967-4519 x.128**.

# WIPES LEGISLATION

The wastewater industry is celebrating California's passage of wipes legislation, which will reduce clogging in sewers and save repair costs. The Federal government has followed suit with proposed national legislation and "Do Not Flush" guidelines. As you may recall, the California legislation requires most wipes manufacturers to label their products as non-flushable and to feature a "Do Not Flush" symbol on packaging.

Beginning July 1, 2022, "Do Not Flush" language on packaging will be mandated if a wipe cannot be flushed.

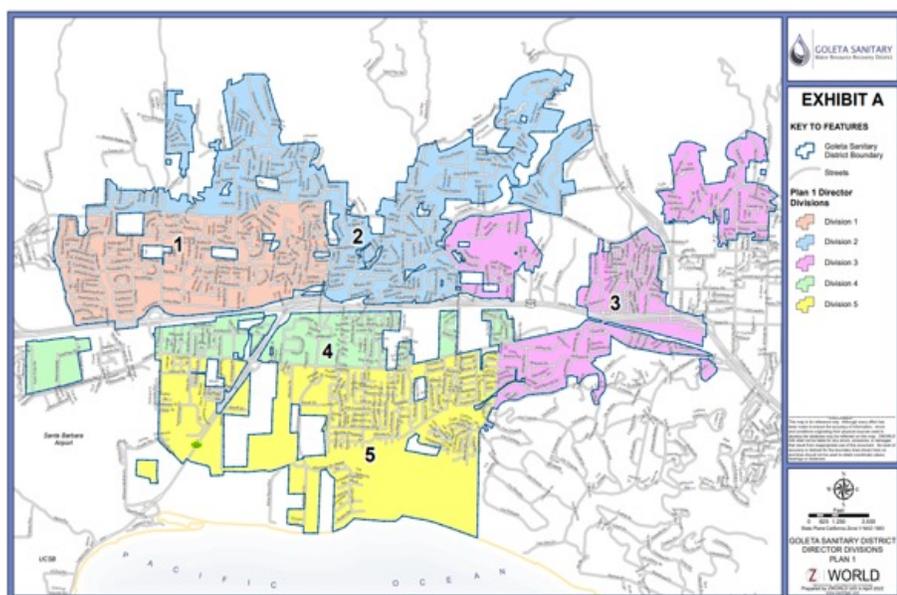
**Look for this symbol in the very near future!**



# NEW VOTING DISTRICTS IN PLACE FOR NOV. 2022

On April 4, 2022, the District held the final of four public hearings to determine the new voting district boundaries for the election of Board members. Plan 1 was selected after discussion and public comment as it met all criteria required for creation of district-based elections per the California Voting Rights Act. The process also determined which of the new districts will be up for election in the November 2022 election cycle.

What does this mean for you, the customer? If you live in one of the newly-created districts 2 or 3, you will have a ballot option this November for Goleta Sanitary District representation. If you live in either voting districts 1, 4, or 5, you will be able to vote on your representative in the November 2024 election. If you have any questions concerning your newly-created district, or when you will be able to vote, please contact **Laura Romano, Management Analyst, [lromano@goletasanitary.org](mailto:lromano@goletasanitary.org) or 805-967-4519 x.128**



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## GoletaSanitary.org

1 William Moffett Place  
Goleta, CA 93117

805-967-4519

Mon–Thur 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

805-564-7259 (after hours)

[info@goletasanitary.org](mailto:info@goletasanitary.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Majoewsky, President  
George W. Emerson  
Sharon Rose  
Edward Fuller  
Jerry D. Smith

## GENERAL MANAGER

Steve Wagner, P.E.

## BOARD MEETINGS

1st and 3rd Mondays  
of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
For details, visit  
[www.goletasanitary.org](http://www.goletasanitary.org)  
or call 805-967-4519

## MISSION STATEMENT

We protect public health and the environment through cost-effective wastewater collection, treatment, and resource recovery to meet present and future community needs.

## VISION STATEMENT

To be the region's leader in water resource recovery through excellence and innovation.

## VALUES STATEMENT

We value our community, the people we serve, and the environment we protect by:

- Acting with integrity
- Being dependable
- Being responsible
- Being safe and
- Being innovative





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## TESTING WASTEWATER FOR COVID-19

Members of the public have asked if the District is testing to detect the presence of COVID-19 in wastewater at our treatment facility. The answer is no, not currently. There are several reasons.

As a regional treatment facility, GSD receives wastewater from the entire Goleta Valley. While testing would likely show that some amount of COVID-19 is present in the wastewater, the results would not specify where the virus is located or how many people are infected.

Testing done in homes, hospitals, and at testing sites already confirms COVID-19 is present locally. Second, there is currently no standardized method of testing. While more data could be produced, it would be hard to draw specific correlations to the data collected. Third, the testing is expensive.

It is likely that COVID-19 will be in our community for some time as the pandemic becomes an endemic. The EPA, the National Institutes of Health, the CDC and others are working on a national framework for wastewater testing for COVID-19. Once a standard testing method is approved, and the results are actionable, the District will pursue grant funding for these types of tests. In the meantime, please be aware that COVID-19 is still present and observe safety protocols such as: staying home when sick, washing your hands, and if you prefer wearing a mask, do so.

