



HELP US PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT!

WASTEWATER TOXICITY CAUSING PROBLEMS

The treatment process at the Water Resource Recovery Facility has been experiencing significant challenges over the last few years with increasing toxicity in the wastewater entering the system. Surfactants, commonly found in soaps, detergents, fabric softeners, and other cleaning products disrupt the biological treatment process by killing off beneficial microorganisms (bugs) that aid in the cleaning of wastewater.

Typically, we control for the level of surfactants in wastewater and adjust the treatment process, but during the last year the quantity of surfactants in the wastewater is above normal. Because our local residents are very attuned to water conservation, we're using less water, so concentrations are high. Now we don't want folks to use more precious water, but there are a number of ways you can help!

HOW TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM!

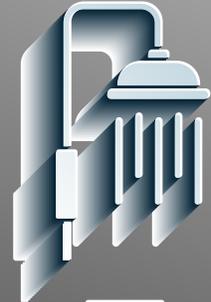
First, by using natural soaps containing plant-based ingredients that are free of surfactants, there are a number

available on the market. Look for products without sodium lauryl sulfate and sodium stearate.

Second: Consider installing a greywater system to save water and reduce the amount of soapy water discharged into the sewer system. Your plants will love it, you'll keep more money in your pocket and help delay costly upgrades to the treatment process. **For more information on greywater systems, go to <http://www.waterwisesb.org/greywater.wwsb>.**

It's a win/win situation for the environment, greywater is recycled and used instead of precious potable water, and surfactants are kept out of the treatment plant, keeping our helpful bugs happy and working.

For more additional information on greywater in the Goleta Valley visit, <http://www.goletawater.com/newsletters-and-press/featured-story/great-news-for-greywater/>.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Wastewater Toxicity Causing Problems
- Holiday FOG message
- Proper disposal of unused medications
- Transition to district-based election update - Public Hearings
- Wipes Legislation



CAN THE GREASE THIS HOLIDAY

It's that time again, the holiday season when many of us are cooking meals to share with loved ones and friends. A gentle reminder to never pour fats, oils or grease (FOG) down your sink. FOG congeals and clogs pipes, which can cause sewage backups. Collect your FOG after it cools and place it in a can, jar, or other vessel to be disposed of in the trash. If possible, you can also collect it and take it to the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center on the UCSB campus at the Environmental Health and Safety Building, Building 565, Mesa Rd. For more information visit, <https://lessismore.org/locations/83-community-hazardous-waste-collection-center/>.



CRISIS AVERTED: MATERIAL CLOGGING PIPES

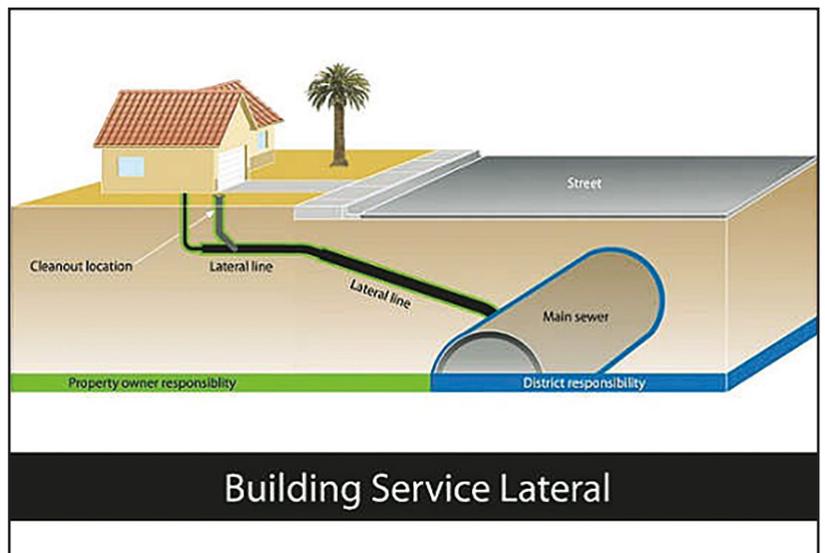
The Goleta Sanitary District owns and maintains over 132 miles of underground sewer pipes within the District service area. During recent routine cleaning and Closed-Circuit TV inspection, there was a substantial amount of build up inside several sections of sewer pipe from what appears to be a grout-like material. This deposit in the sewer system can lead to sewer overflows into homes and damage the environment.

The District would like to remind everyone that this type of material should never be flushed down the drain or poured into a sewer clean-out. It can solidify and clog your sewer lateral (your connection to the main District sewer pipe) and the District's sewer main line. As seen in the attached picture, once this material settles in the pipe, it can be several inches thick. Removal of the material is time consuming and costly. If the sewer lateral is clogged with this type of material, replacement of the sewer lateral may be required, which is the property owner's responsibility and costs in the thousands of dollars.



All residents are reminded that grout, grease, oils, paint, debris, kitty litter, and any other such items should not be flushed or poured down the drain as they will clog the sewer pipes. These clogs are difficult to remove and cause sewer overflows resulting in wastewater contamination of your streets, creeks and local beaches. Remember the 3P's for safe flushing: ONLY Pee, Poop, and (toilet) Paper. Remind any private contractors not to dispose of grout, cement or any other construction material into the sewer system. Violators are subject to civil and criminal action and liability for District costs associated with material removal and pipe repairs.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact our Collection System Manager, Luis Astorga at (805) 967-4519.



PROPER DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICATIONS

As you know, medications should never be flushed down the drain or toilet. If you have expired or unused medication, there are convenient drop-off locations throughout the Santa Barbara/Goleta Valley. For a list of all the locations in Santa Barbara County visit, <https://med-project.org/locations/santa-barbara/>.



GOLETA SANITARY
Water Resource Recovery District

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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
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

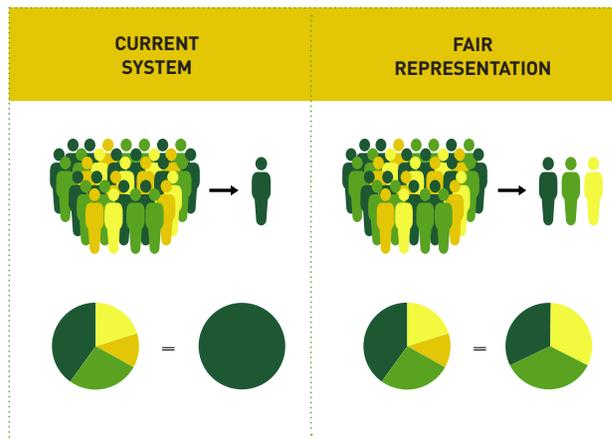
TRANSITION TO DISTRICT-BASED ELECTION UPDATE- PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

- **Monday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Saturday, Nov. 20 at 11:00 a.m.**

GSD is transitioning to district-based elections. In our May newsletter, we discussed changes that will mean future board members will be elected from five separate voting districts. Changing to district-based elections will help ensure equal representation for all parts of the District's service area. Under the new system, after census data determines the population, an equal number of residents will be divided into five voting districts.

The district boundaries are drawn after input from residents helps determine which "communities of interest" (COIs) should be kept together. A number of criteria are considered, including geography, common language, and more.

November Public Hearings: The community is invited to give feedback on "communities of interest" at two public hearings. The first will occur on **Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.** as part of the regularly-scheduled Board meeting. For those unable to attend that meeting, a second public hearing is scheduled for **Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.**



At the meetings, demographers Lapkoff and Gobalet will give a presentation on transitioning from an "at-large" election system to a "district-based" system. Constituents are encouraged to come learn about the process and provide suggestions about possible COIs to consider when drawing the new district maps.

Once preliminary maps are drawn that incorporate community feedback, the public will have an opportunity to share feedback on the draft maps at meetings tentatively planned for March, 2022. Information will be updated on the GSD website, www.goletasanitary.org.





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Goleta, CA 93117

GoletaSanitary.org

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SAVE THE DATES
FOR PUBLIC
HEARINGS ON
TRANSITION TO
DISTRICT-BASED
ELECTIONS -
NOV. 1 AND NOV. 20

WIPES LEGISLATION

Coming soon to a store near you, we are pleased to report that makers of most wet wipes will soon have to change their packaging to indicate whether they are safe or not for the sewer system.

Some quick facts:

- Most wipes contain plastic; designed for strength, they don't break down, and when flushed, contribute to microplastic pollution
- These wipes clog wastewater systems, causing sewage backups and costly repairs to equipment at wastewater treatment facilities
- Labelling has been inconsistent at best; consumers are led to believe all wipes are safe to flush-most are not.

New legislation requires that manufacturers' packaging of wet wipes (defined as "pre-moistened, nonwoven, disposable wipes" including baby wipes), be marked DO NOT FLUSH with a related symbol after July 1, 2022.

Labelling for antibacterial and other disinfecting or insecticide wipes are required to be changed by July 1, 2023.



**Don't
Flush Wipes!**