



GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT

NPDES MONITORING PROGRAM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted: January 2026

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) treatment plant operated under WDR Order No. R3-2017-0021 and NPDES Permit No. CA0048160 which became effective November 10, 2017. January through December 2025 the plant was operating utilizing the full secondary process.

The Goleta wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located in an unincorporated coastal area of Santa Barbara County, California. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean approximately one mile offshore of Goleta Beach County Park via a south-trending ocean outfall. The outfall lies within and extends outside of a small embayment formed by Goleta Point directly to the west.

The Goleta WWTP treats wastewater from the service areas of the Goleta Sanitary District (GSD), the Goleta West Sanitary District, the University of California at Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport, and certain Santa Barbara County facilities. Existing agreements among the agencies establish GSD as the owner of the joint wastewater treatment facilities and assign the responsibility of operation and maintenance of the facilities to GSD. However, each agency “owns” an “indeterminate, perpetual and exclusive capacity right” in the facilities and an “easement right of flow through” the facilities.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report summarizes data collected during the 2025 monitoring and reporting program, and analyzes this data to determine compliance with the discharge permit terms and conditions.

Chapter presentation is as follows:

Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Treatment Plant Performance
Chapter 3	Collection System Summary
Chapter 4	Outfall Dive Survey

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROCESS

The following discussion focuses on the principal features of GSD's full secondary process of wastewater and sludge treatment. The performance capacities and characteristics of the treatment plant are detailed in Chapter 2.

Treatment Plant Facilities

The Goleta Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at One William Moffett Place, in an unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County, CA. The plant site is approximately 10 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara, near the Pacific Coast. A regional view of the study area is shown in Figure 1-1.

On average, over the past 10 years, 2016 to 2025, the plant has discharged about 3.80 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated effluent to the open coastal waters of the Santa Barbara Channel via an ocean outfall. The treatment plant is currently discharging municipal wastewater in accordance with NPDES permit CA 0048160. The treatment plant's discharge meets the state water quality standards as set forth in the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (California Ocean Plan) and the federal Clean Water Act.

Facilities Description

The Goleta wastewater treatment plant underwent its first substantial upgrade completed in June 1988. The upgraded plant was designed to assure compliance with monthly 30-day average discharge limitations of 63 mg/L for suspended solids and 98 mg/L for BOD under an average dry weather flow 9.0 MGD. The facility utilized a split-stream process of physical and biological treatment until December of 2013. The current biological treatment is provided by two trickling filters and an aeration basin to achieve full secondary treatment. The following sections describe the treatment process.

Collection System

Over 190 miles of pipelines collect wastewater that flows almost entirely by gravity to pump stations located in each agency's service area. These stations pump the flow to the treatment facility.

Pump Station and Headworks

Influent from the collection system of each agency is pumped to the treatment plant headworks where raw wastewater flows through two bar screens with ¼ inch screen spacing, which removes large debris. Influent is then routed to aerated grit tanks where sand and grit are allowed to settle out and pumped to screening washer/compactor units. This debris and grit is then transported via truck to a local landfill. Air collected from the influent pump stations and headworks is scrubbed in a biological odor reduction tower.

Primary Sedimentation

Wastewater then flows into one of three circular primary sedimentation basins (primary clarifiers) where solids settling to the bottom and floatable materials rising to the surface are mechanically collected and pumped to digesters.

Secondary Treatment

Secondary treatment involves three treatment elements: the biofilters, an aeration basin, and secondary sedimentation tanks. In the biofilter, primary effluent trickles over plastic media where bacteria feed on organic wastes, thus removing these wastes from the water. Effluent from the trickling filter flows to an aeration basin where air is injected and the effluent is mixed with recirculated sludge from the secondary sedimentation basins. The resulting biological action coagulates these fine particles and the organic solids settle out as sludge in the secondary clarifiers. The waste activated sludge (WAS) is pumped to two mechanical thickeners and then is pumped to the three anaerobic digesters. A portion of the secondary process flow can be diverted to the reclamation facilities for tertiary treatment with gravity filters.

Chlorine Contact Channel

The secondary effluent flows to the head of the chlorine contact channel where sodium hypochlorite is injected to kill bacteria in the effluent. Prior to discharge into the ocean, sodium bisulfite is added for dechlorination, thus completing the disinfection process.

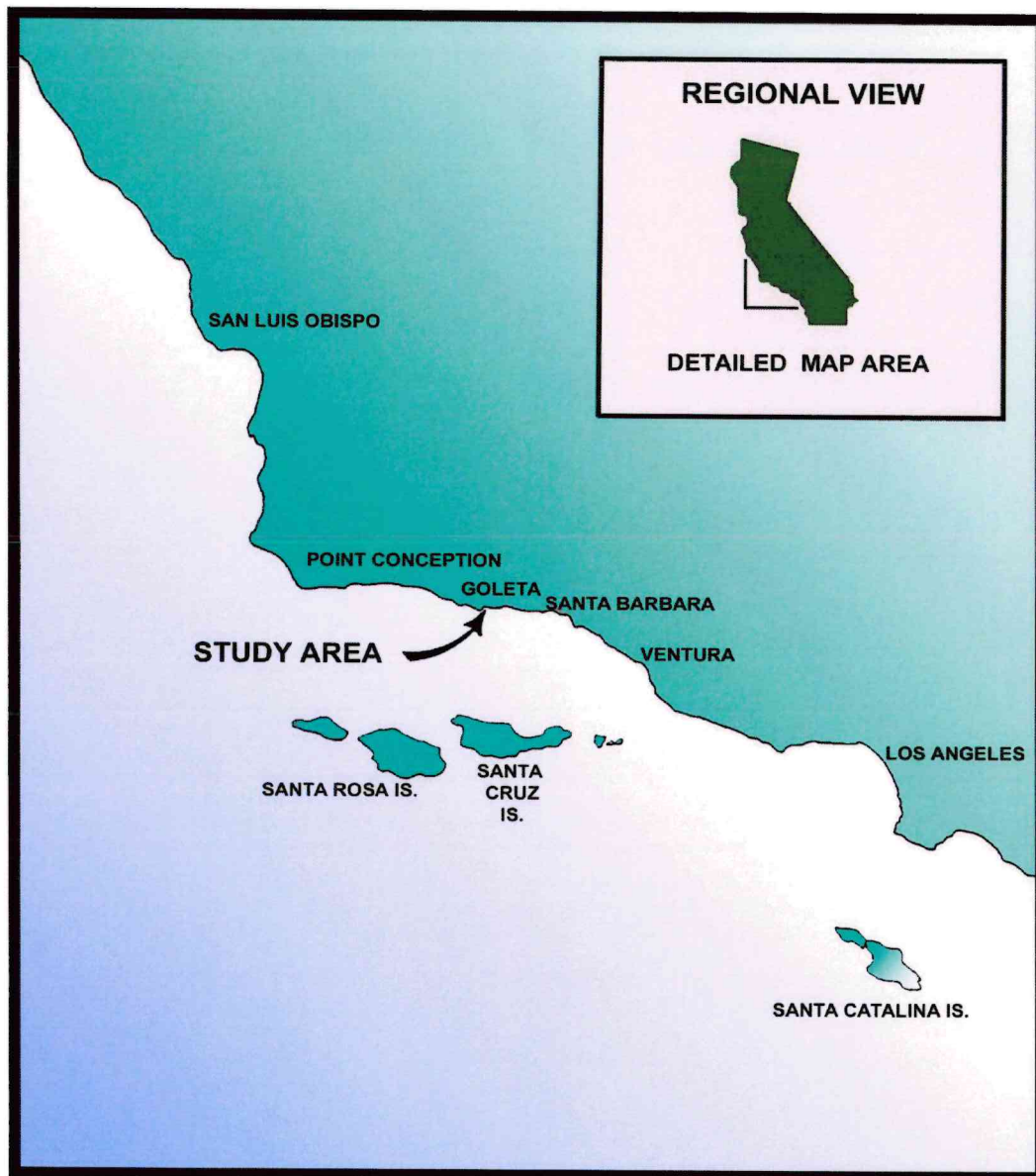
Sludge Treatment and Biosolids Disposal

Settleable solids and floatable materials from the primary clarifiers are treated in two heated anaerobic sludge digesters for at least 15 days. A third digester is currently being built. Anaerobic digestion decomposes organic material and produces digester gas composed primarily of methane. This digester gas fuels a boiler used to heat sludge in the digesters. Sludge from the digesters then flows to one of two stabilization basins where it settles and bacteria can continue the organic decomposition. Stabilized sludge is dredged from the bottom of these basins and is dewatered by two screw presses. The digested supernatant from the three anaerobic digesters can also be diverted from the stabilization basins directly to the two screw presses for dewatering.

The screw pressed biosolids, identified as Class B, were transported to a composting facility owned by Synagro West, LLC located at 12421 Holloway Road, Lost Hills, CA 93249. A copy of the agreement with Synagro West, LLC is available upon request.

A complete biosolids report describing the treatment and disposal process is prepared each year and submitted to the EPA as well as the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) database. The deadline for submittal of this report is February 19th of each year.

Figure 1-1. Regional View of the Goleta Valley



Reclamation Facilities

On September 13, 1991, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Central Coast Region approved Order No. 91-03 that permits the Goleta Sanitary District to produce up to 3.0 MGD of reclaimed water. The reclaimed water produced at the Goleta Sanitary District is distributed by the Goleta Water District for use within their service area. Reclaimed water is used for landscape irrigation and for incidental uses including construction dust control and compaction, and to flush toilets within several buildings located in Goleta. The Goleta Water District is regulated by separate water reclamation requirements.

Secondary effluent enters the reclamation facilities where a flash mixer disperses polyaluminium chloride (PACL) and polymer into the water. The flocculated suspension is then filtered through a bed of anthracite coal where the floc is removed. The filtered water then flows to a chlorine contact tank where sodium hypochlorite is added for disinfection. The highly chlorinated treated water then flows to a 3 million-gallon underground storage tank where it is stored until needed. Reclaimed water is distributed throughout the Goleta Valley by a distribution system operated and maintained by the Goleta Water District.

An annual report describing the reclamation treatment process, operational parameters, water quality, and production rates is prepared and submitted to the RWQCB by January 31st.

Ocean Outfall

The treated secondary effluent is discharged to the ocean through an outfall pipe that extends 5800 feet offshore and terminates at a depth of approximately 92 feet below Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) level. At the pipe terminus, a multi-port diffuser with 36, four inch diameter ports mixes one part of effluent with approximately 122 parts of seawater (Tetra Tech, Inc. 1993) to achieve a high initial wastewater dilution.

Staff

Mr. Steve Wagner, P.E., currently serves as GSD's General Manager. The General Manager is responsible for overall operation and performance of the treatment plant.

Eleven state certified treatment plant operators operated the wastewater treatment plant under the direction of the Plant Operations Manager, Mr. Pete Regis. The Plant Operations Manager also supervises the treatment plant's industrial waste staff. Mr. Chuck Smolnikar, manages the maintenance staff and the laboratory is under the direction of Ms. Lena Cox, the Environmental Services Manager. The grade and certification number of operations, maintenance, industrial waste control, and laboratory personnel employed during the 2025 operational year are shown in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Goleta Sanitary District Operation Staff, 2025

Staff	Grade	California Certification No.
Operators		
Pete Regis	IV	28277
Jeff Minyard	IV	28646
Ricardo Lopez	III	10756
Morgan Lea	III	28400
Ronnie Perez	III	44916
Robert Anderson	III	42803
Cody Whiteside	III	41922
Cole Sodergren	II	45180
Jeshua Hulbert	I	28266
Sam Madera	I	81467
Justin Graves	I	43450
Lab Analysts		
Lena Cox	IV	90334003
Chris Ramirez	II	1308235512
Austin Boyer	I	1308235904
Justin Graves	I	1308219530
Pete Regis	I	1308216432
Teresa Kistner	I	99076111
Maintenance Technologist		
Alejandro Bautista	III	1308216605
Torrey Jones	II	1308217681
Electrical / Instrumentation		
Ramon Garza	III	1308234652
Charles Smolnikar	II	60172004
Dept. of Industrial Relations – Electrician		
Charles Smolnikar	NA	107709
Ramon Garza	NA	160174
Lee Gordon	NA	126439
Environmental Compliance		
Teresa Kistner	IV	1308218096
Biosolids Land Application Management		
Lena Cox	I	70711001

Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Goleta Sanitary District's monitoring and reporting program was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the NPDES permit CA0048160. The objectives of the monitoring program and this report are to:

- Determine compliance with NPDES permit terms and conditions.
- Document training and certification of wastewater treatment facility operators.
- Assess treatment plant performance and the effectiveness of industrial pretreatment and toxics control programs.
- Evaluate the monitoring and reporting program and make recommendations for improving the program.

The self-monitoring and reporting program consists of assessing water quality and compliance with effluent limits. Table 1-2 summarizes the sampling schedule for various elements of the monitoring and reporting program conducted during 2025.

Table 1-2. Schedule for NPDES Monitoring, Goleta Sanitary District, 2025

Monitoring Program Component	Frequency	Schedule
Standard Wastewater Parameters	Daily – Weekly	As Specified
Chronic Toxicity	Quarterly	Jan, April, July, and Oct
Effluent Metals	Annually	October
Effluent Priority Pollutants	Annually	October
Outfall Inspection	Annually	October

Influent, and effluent water monitoring is conducted in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved test procedures as stipulated under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 136 (40 CFR 136): *Guidelines establishing test procedures for the analysis of pollutants*. Water quality analyses for compliance monitoring are performed by analytical laboratories certified by the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Bioassay testing is conducted in accordance with guidelines approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and the EPA.

In order to comply with a request from the Central Coast RWQCB in a letter dated June 27, 2008 the District is no longer submitting hard copies of NPDES reports to the RWQCB. All documents are converted into a searchable PDF format and are submitted electronically.

CHAPTER 2

TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE

The performance of a wastewater treatment plant is measured by its ability to reduce influent contaminants to levels acceptable for discharge to the environment. Federal and state authorities mandate these levels of treatment in order to protect the marine environment. Proper operation of the Goleta Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant is assured through the monitoring of several effluent parameters such as flow, total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, residual chlorine, hydrogen-ion concentration (pH), turbidity, settleable solids, oil and grease, and toxicity concentration. Metals, pesticides, and other priority pollutants are also analyzed to aid in determining the impact the wastewater discharge has on receiving waters, evaluating compliance with discharge permit limitations, and monitoring the effectiveness of the industrial pretreatment and toxic control program.

WASTEWATER CHARACTERIZATION

Goleta Sanitary District's NPDES monitoring program requires measurement of many parameters at frequencies ranging from continuous to once per year. During 2025, influent, effluent, and biosolids (sludge) samples were collected by treatment plant personnel, and analyzed by the Goleta Sanitary District wastewater treatment plant laboratory and various contract laboratories such as: Aquatic Testing Laboratories (ATL) for chronic toxicity, OEC Laboratory, Weck Laboratory, Pace Analytical Services and Ceres Analytical Laboratory. Treatment plant personnel monitored and analyzed wastewater for performance-evaluating parameters including wastewater flow, suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), pH, turbidity, settleable solids, oil and grease, temperature, residual chlorine, coliform and enterococcus bacteria. The previously mentioned environmental laboratories performed annual analysis of priority pollutants, metals and other parameters in final effluent and biosolids samples. Final effluent samples were also analyzed for radioactivity.

Analytical methodologies used by Goleta Sanitary District Laboratory and other contract laboratories used by GSD are based on approved U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) methods (EPA 1983; Federal Register 1984) and other methods in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 23rd edition*. All methodologies employed during 2025 were approved for NPDES monitoring programs. Quality assurance and quality control procedures followed those presented in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 23rd edition*.

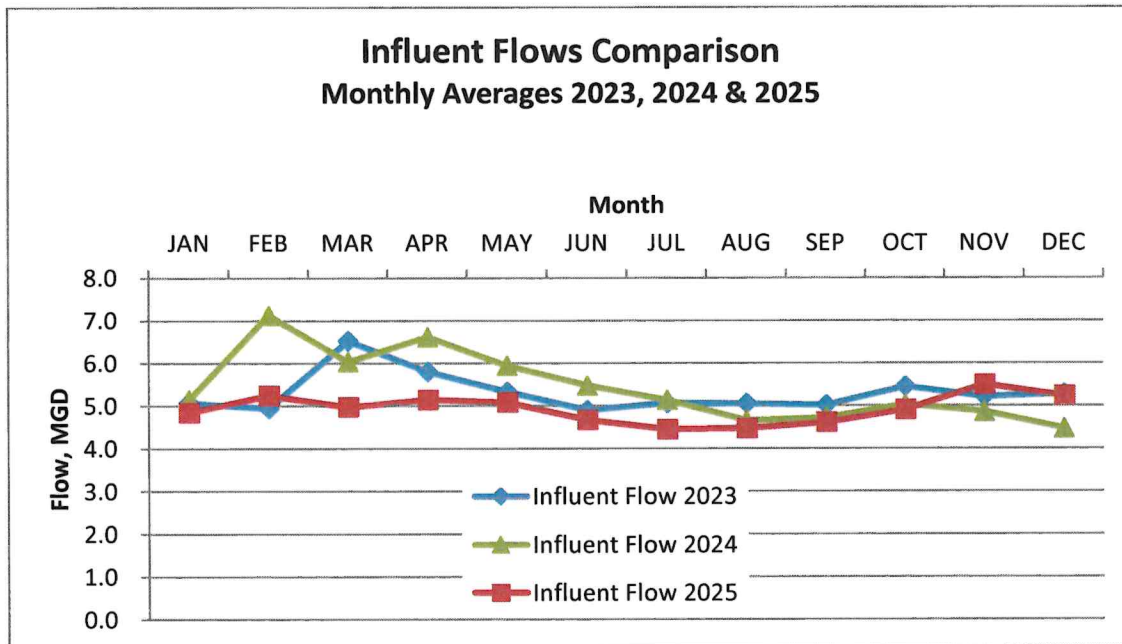
Results of the wastewater chemical analyses used to monitor proper operation of the treatment plant during 2025, and the respective discharge permit limitations, are presented in Tables 2-1 and Table 2-2. All monthly averaged data presented in these tables are calculated from daily values at the treatment plant, with the exception of removal efficiencies, which are calculated from the monthly averages of the respective influent and effluent parameters.

Influent Flow

The daily influent flow into the treatment plant was monitored continuously. Influent flow throughout the year, averaged 4.9 million gallons per day (MGD) which is half a million gallons less than the average of 5.4 MGD that was treated in 2024.

Overall, the average monthly influent flows for 2025 had minor seasonal variations throughout the year, fluctuating from a low of 4.44 MGD in July to a high of 5.48 MGD in November. See Figure 2-1 for a visual flow comparison.

Figure 2-1. Influent Flows Monthly Average Comparison for 2023, 2024 and 2025



Since 2001 the Goleta West Sanitary District and Goleta Sanitary District have maintained an aggressive collection system rehabilitation program. Numerous sections of the collection system in both Districts have been relined or replaced to correct structural deficiencies while significantly reducing the inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems. However, even with the reduction of I&I the amount of rainfall during the year can affect the total amount of influent flow measured. The District's storm water pollution prevention plan requires all storm water collected from process areas to be treated before disposal.

Effluent Flow

The effluent flow from the treatment plant was monitored continuously during 2025 and averaged 4.4 MGD for the year. The difference between the influent and effluent flow is due to the production of reclaimed water, which is not discharged into the ocean but is distributed throughout the community for landscape irrigation and other uses.

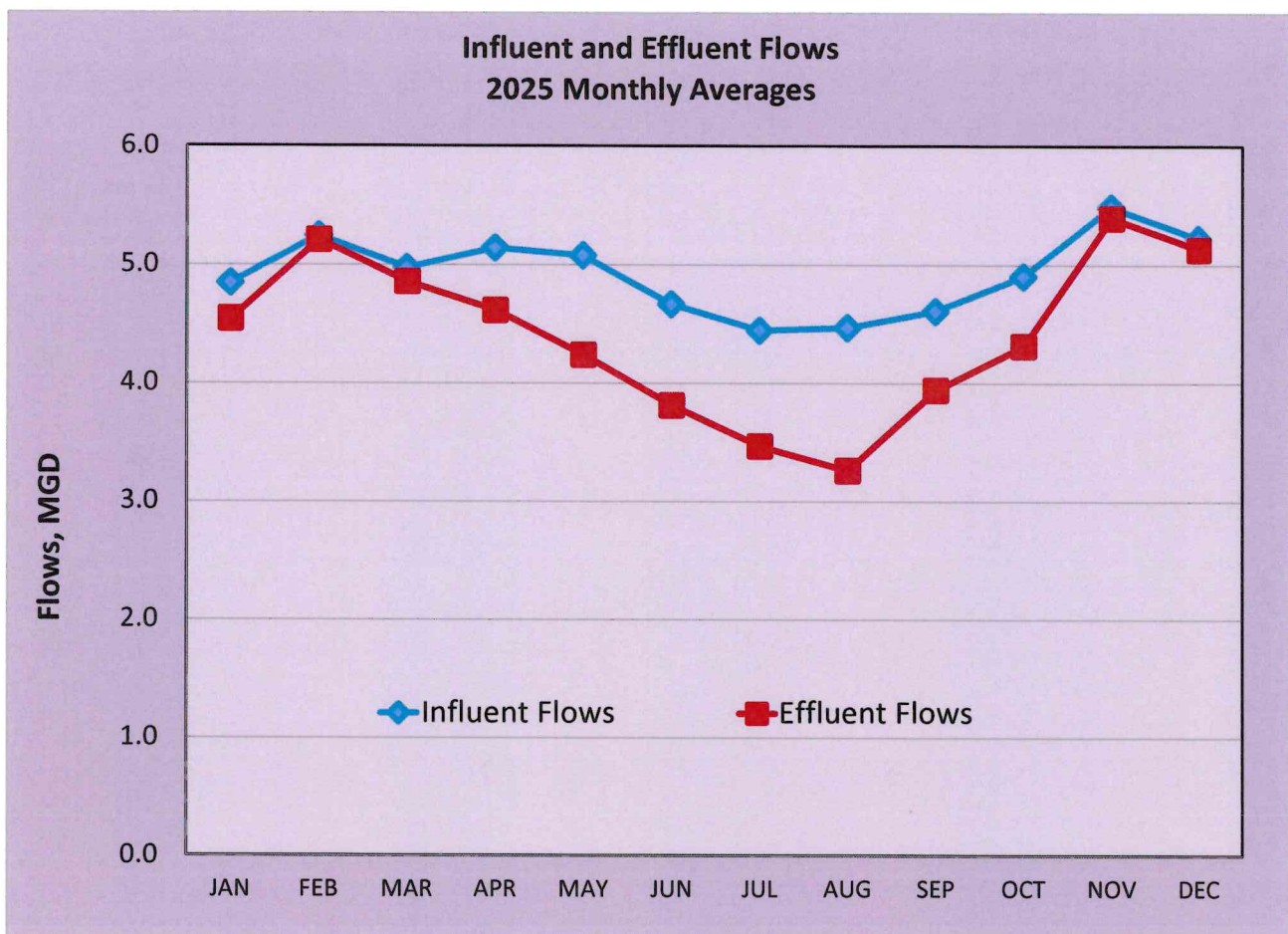
Figure 2-2. Influent and Effluent Flows 2025 Monthly Averages

Figure 2-2 shows the monthly average influent and effluent flows for 2025. Higher wastewater effluent flow generally occurs during the winter months when influent flow is also the highest and recycling is minimal. The most important factor contributing to fluctuations in the effluent flow is the amount of wastewater that is processed into reclaimed water and used for irrigation.

The lowest effluent flow occurred during August when the average amount of flow discharged to the Pacific Ocean dropped to 2.7 MGD. The variations in the monthly average effluent flow seen in 2025 fluctuated from a low of 3.3 MGD in August, when the daily production of reclaimed water averaged 1.50 MGD for the month to a high of 10.3 MGD during December when the reclaimed facility was off line and a significant rain event occurred. Figure 2-2 depicts the influent and effluent flows and Table 2-1 shows the actual monthly flow average values.

Table 2-1. Monthly Averages Flow, Suspended Solids and BOD, Goleta Sanitary District, 2025.

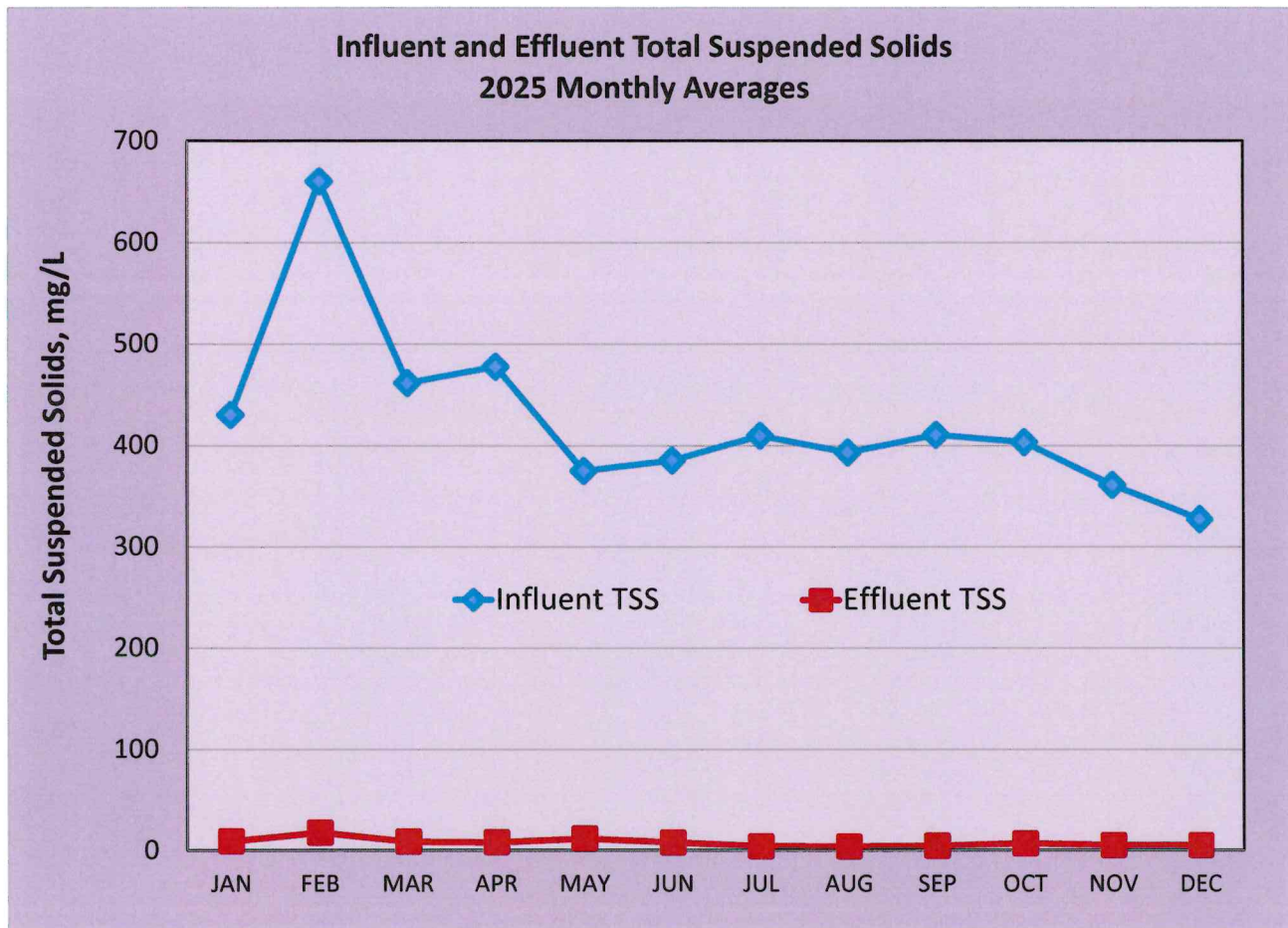
Month	Flow		Total Suspended Solids				Biochemical Oxygen Demand			
	Influent MGD	Effluent MGD	Influent mg/L	Effluent mg/L	Removal (%)	Mass Emission (lbs/day)	Influent mg/L	Effluent mg/L	Removal (%)	Mass Emission (lbs/day)
Jan	4.85	4.55	430	9.1	97.8	362	384	7.7	97.9	294
Feb	5.24	5.21	660	17.7	97.3	787	465	9.2	97.8	399
Mar	4.97	4.86	461	8.8	98.0	354	351	6.3	98.1	252
Apr	5.14	4.62	478	8.1	98.1	319	453	4.9	98.8	193
May	5.08	4.24	375	12.0	96.7	427	342	7.1	97.9	250
Jun	4.67	3.81	385	8.0	97.8	256	363	5.7	98.3	180
Jul	4.44	3.47	409	4.3	98.9	126	354	5.1	98.5	150
Aug	4.47	3.26	393	4.0	98.9	109	350	11.2	96.8	300
Sep	4.60	3.94	410	4.7	98.8	158	353	6.7	98.0	231
Oct	4.90	4.31	403	7.1	98.1	258	367	6.2	98.3	227
Nov	5.48	5.40	361	5.0	98.4	259	324	4.3	98.6	202
Dec	5.22	5.13	327	5.1	98.4	218	308	4.5	98.4	196
Average	4.92	4.40	424	7.8	98.1	303	368	6.6	98.1	240
Limit	NL	≤ 7.64	NL	≤ 30	≥ 85	< 1912	NL	≤ 30	≥ 85	< 1912

NL = No Limit

Suspended Solids

Influent and effluent suspended solids were measured five days per week on 24-hour composite samples. The effectiveness of the treatment plant in removing suspended solids is demonstrated by the variation of influent solids versus the low-level and consistent output of effluent solids (see Figure 2-3). Influent suspended solids concentrations averaged 424 mg/L for the year showing a slight decrease from the 2024 annual average of 434 mg/L. Figure 2-3 shows a fluctuation in concentration of suspended solids that occurred during the year. The treatment process reduced the concentration of total suspended solids in the effluent to an annual average of 7.8 mg/L which is a minor decrease from the 8.4 mg/L average of 2024.

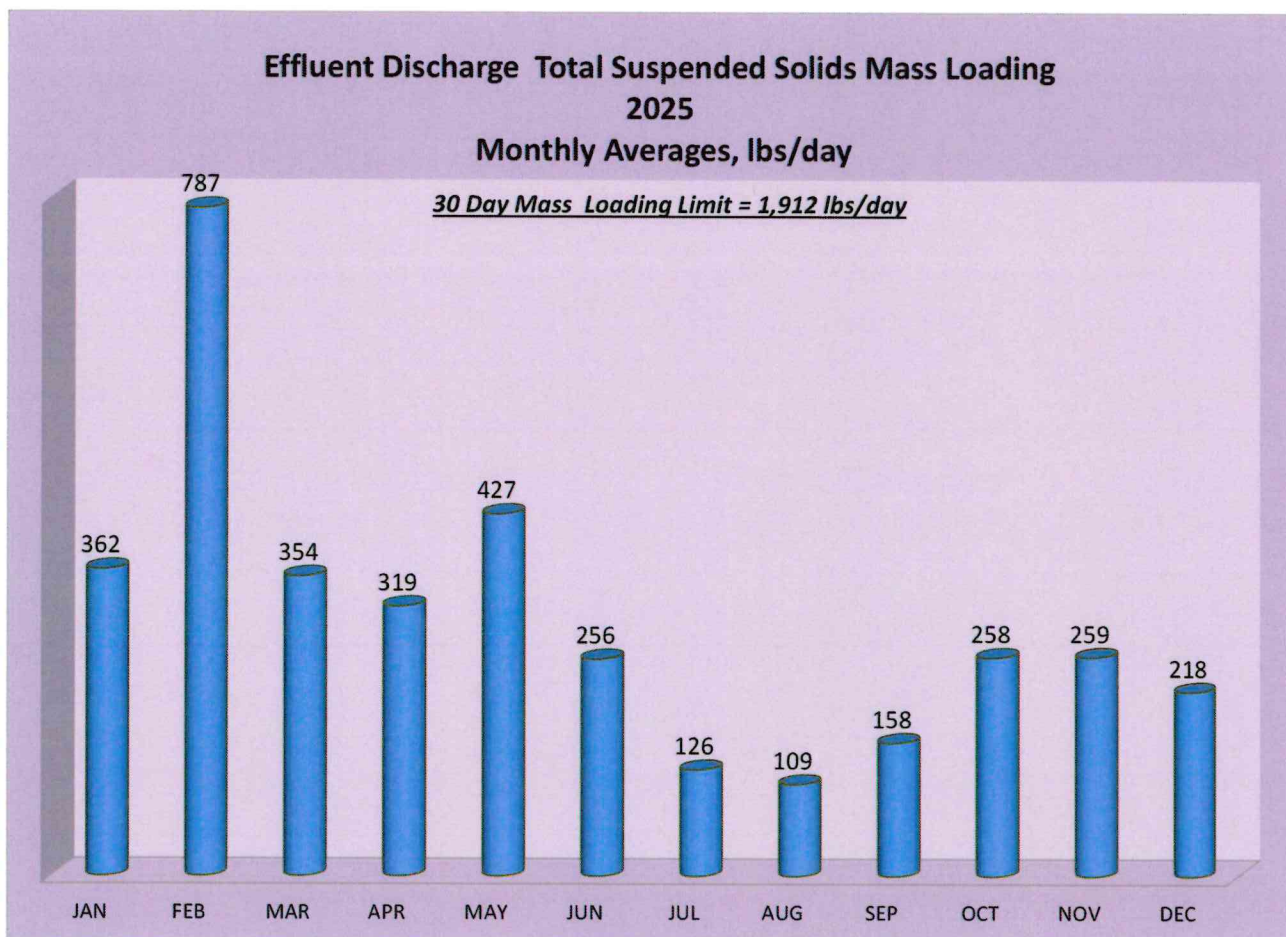
All effluent 30-day monthly averages were well below the 30-mg/L monthly average limitation. Overall removal efficiency for the year was an average of 98.1 percent, see Table 2-1.

Figure 2-3. Influent and Effluent Total Suspended Solids 2025 Monthly Averages

Average monthly suspended solids mass loading rates for 2025 are represented graphically in Figure 2-4. The mass emission limit is based on average dry weather flow (ADWF) and is a limit applied to dry weather flows (DWF). There is no limit for mass emissions on wet weather flows.

The maximum average monthly mass emission loading for 2025 occurred in February at a high of 787 lbs/day, which is approximately 41 percent of the permitted monthly 30-day average limit of 1,912 lbs/day. The average weekly limitation for suspended solids loading is 2,867 lbs/day. Loading rates were well below the discharge limits throughout the year.

Figure 2-4. Effluent Discharge Total Suspended Solids Mass Loading, 2025 Monthly Averages, lbs/day

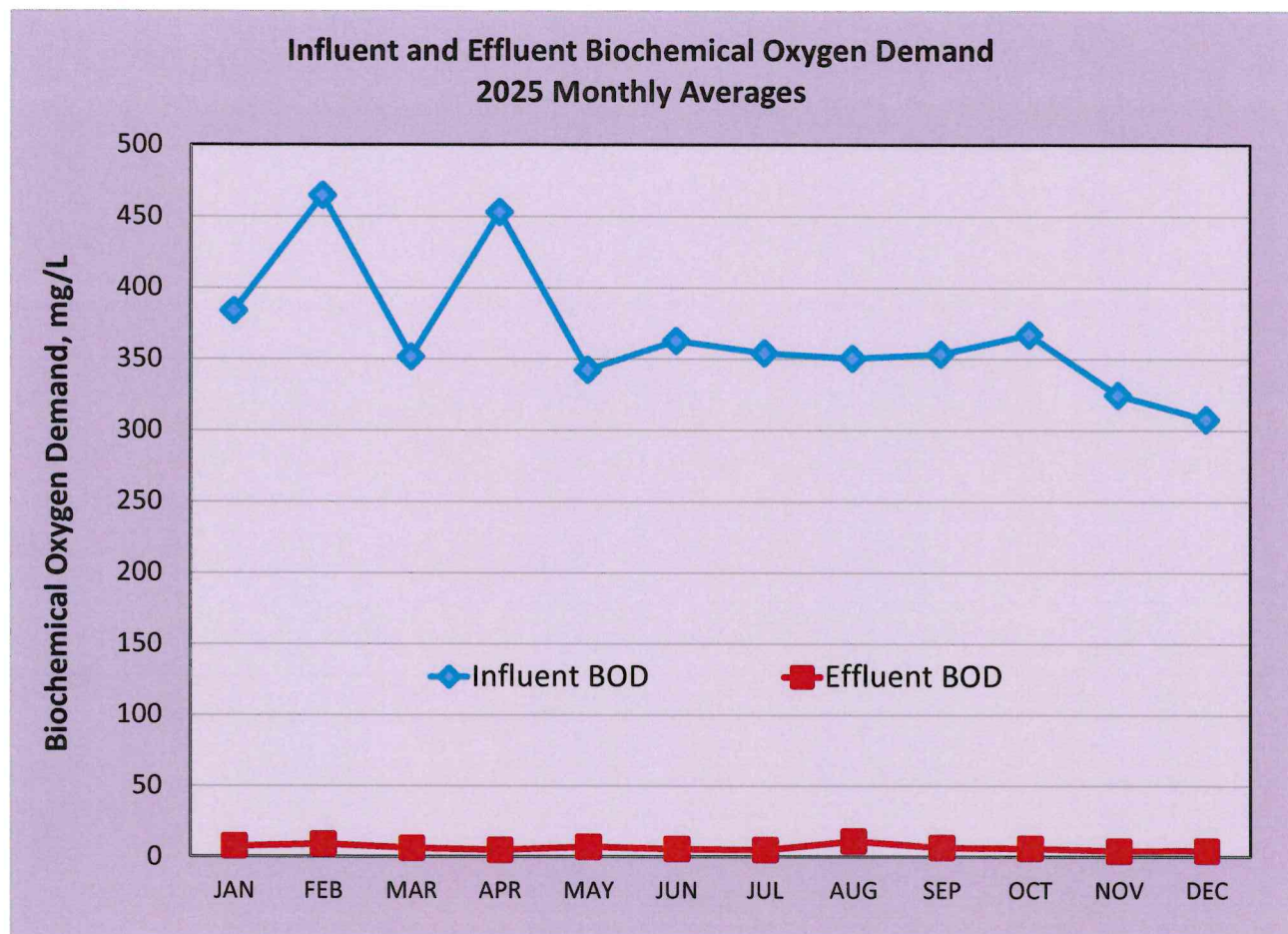


Biochemical Oxygen Demand

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels were measured on 24 hour composite samples of the influent and effluent, at least monthly and five days per week, respectively.

During 2025 influent BOD averaged 368 mg/L showing an increase of 7% from the annual influent average of 343 mg/L for 2024. The influent BOD varied throughout the year, ranging from a monthly average low of 308 mg/L in December to a high of 465 mg/L in February. Variations in the monthly average final effluent BOD concentration were observed throughout the year with the annual average of 6.6 mg/L and the range extending from a low of 4.3 mg/L in November to a high of 11.2 mg/L in August, (Table 2-1). The difference between influent and effluent BOD represents an average overall removal rate of 98.1 percent.

The NPDES R3-2017-0021 permit limits are an average of 30 mg/L and weekly average of 45 mg/L. All BOD NPDES limitations were achieved throughout the year.

Figure 2-5. Influent and Effluent Biochemical Oxygen Demand 2025 Monthly Averages

In 2025, all effluent BOD mass emission values were below all limitations. The maximum monthly average mass emission was 399 lbs/day for February. The mass emission limit is based on average dry weather flow (ADWF) and is a limit that only applies to dry weather flows (DWF). There is no limit for mass emissions on wet weather flows. The mass emissions limits specified in permit R3-2017-0021 are a monthly average of 1,912 lbs/day and the average weekly limitation of 2,867 lbs/day. None of the permit limits were exceeded during 2025.

Table 2-2. Monthly Averages of Effluent Parameters, Goleta Sanitary District, 2025

Month	Influent	Final Effluent					
	pH	pH	Turbidity	Settleable Solids	Oil & Grease	Oil & Grease Mass Emission	Chronic Toxicity
	SU	SU	NTU	mL/L/hr	mg/L	lbs/day	TUc
January	7.9	7.3	2.9	0.19	2.0	76	17.9
February	7.8	7.3	5.7	0.34	<1.5	<71	
March	7.8	7.1	3.2	0.10	<1.5	<66	
April	7.9	7.1	3.0	0.11	1.9	75	10.0
May	7.8	7.1	3.7	0.13	2.8	96	
June	7.6	7.2	3.0	0.13	3.4	114	
July	7.7	7.3	2.0	0.10	<1.7	<52	17.9
August	7.3	7.4	2.1	0.10	<1.7	<46	
September	7.5	7.3	2.3	0.10	<1.7	<58	
October	7.7	7.1	2.4	0.11	<1.7	<57	17.9
November	7.7	7.2	1.4	0.15	<1.7	<128	
December	7.7	7.2	2.1	0.13	<1.7	<82	
Average	7.7	7.2	2.8	0.14	<1.9	<69	15.9
Limit	NL	6 to 9	< 75	< 1.0	< 25	< 1590	< 123

NL = No Limit

Hydrogen-Ion Concentration (pH)

Influent pH was monitored weekly and effluent pH levels were monitored five days per week to ensure that the effluent remained within an acceptable range when discharged into the ocean. Influent pH averaged 7.7 units for the year; effluent pH averaged 7.2 units. The NPDES effluent pH limitations are established as a minimum of 6.0 and a maximum of 9.0 pH units; all pH values were well within these limitations for 2025.

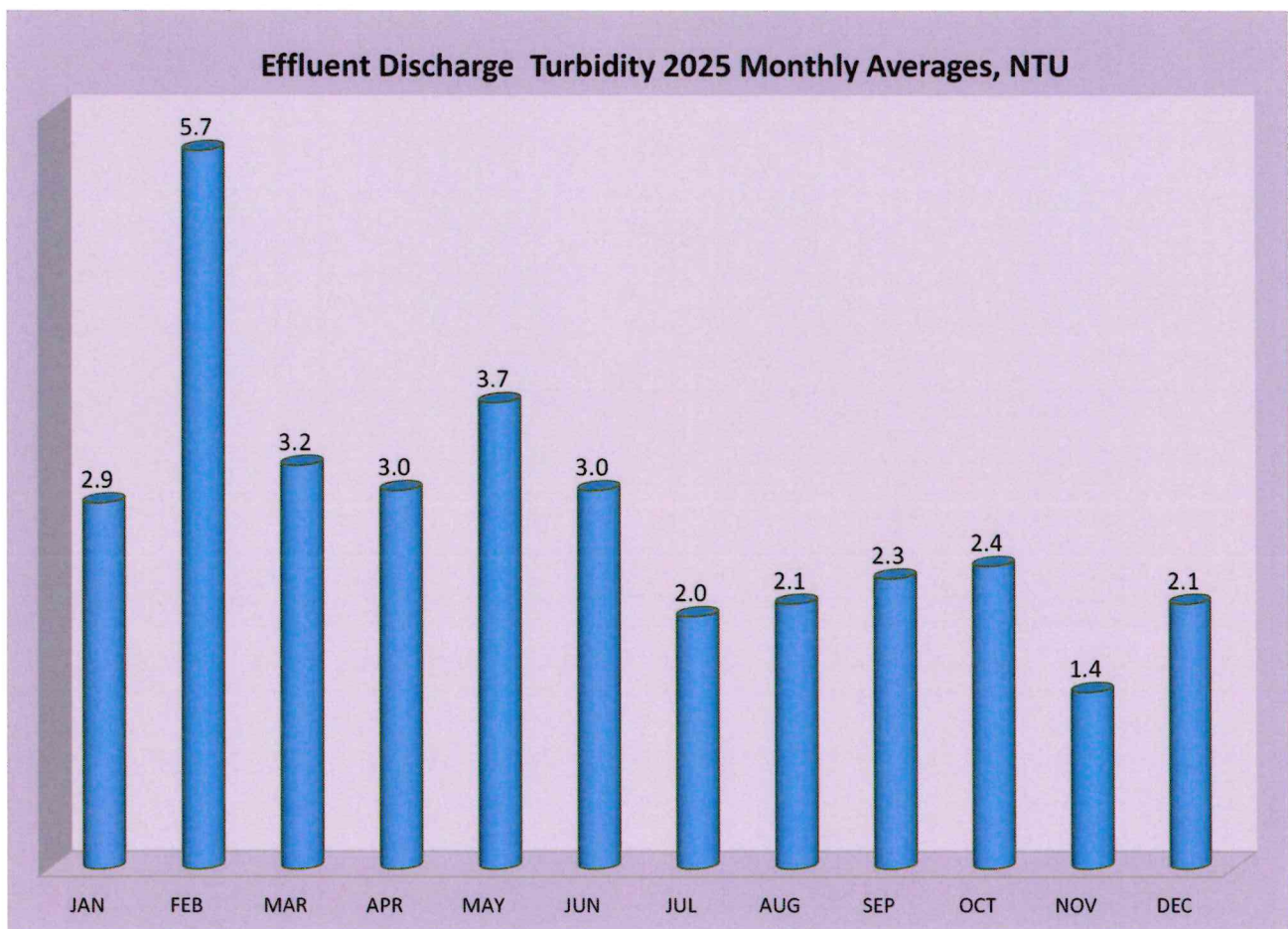
Ammonia

The effluent was monitored once during October by a certified commercial laboratory, to determine the concentration of ammonia. The current permit, R3-2017-0021, does not include ammonia effluent limits or monthly testing requirements because no reasonable potential was determined for the pollutant during the permit renewal reasonable potential analysis. However, the measured ammonia concentration of the effluent in October was 30 mg/L.

Turbidity

Effluent turbidity was monitored five days per week. The permit limitations for effluent turbidity consists of a monthly average of 75 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), a weekly average of 100 NTU, and a maximum at any time limitation of 225 NTU. Effluent turbidity data are shown graphically in Figure 2-6. The maximum value at any time, 18.6 NTU, occurred on February 4th which was still well below the effluent limits. Monthly averages ranged from a low of 1.4 NTU to a high of 5.7 NTU. All values were significantly below their respective permit limitations.

Figure 2-6. Effluent Discharge Turbidity 2025 Monthly Averages, NTU



Chronic Toxicity Concentration

The effluent was analyzed for chronic toxicity (TU_C) on a quarterly basis in January, April, July, and October. The special testing conducted during 2011 to identify the most sensitive chronic toxicity organism showed that the abalone development test was the most sensitive. All results were well below the daily maximum limitation of 123 TU_C . See Table 2-2.

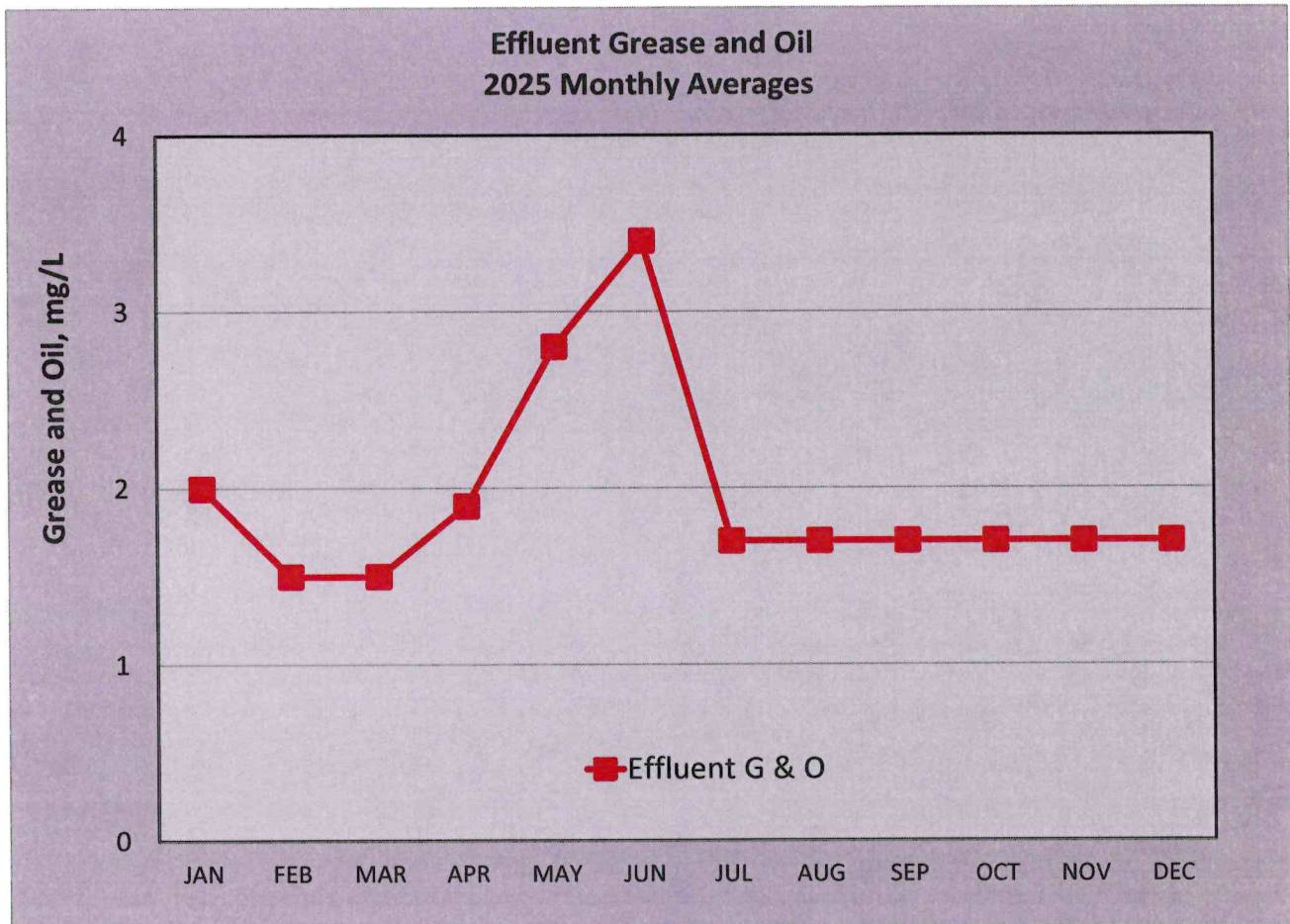
Settleable Solids

The effluent was monitored for settleable solids concentrations 5 days per week. The permit specifies that the monthly average, weekly average, and maximum at any time may not exceed 1.0 milliliters/liter/hour (ml/L/hr), 1.5 ml/L/hr, and 3.0 ml/L/hr, respectively. Monthly averages were consistently less than 0.40 ml/L/hr. The maximum value at any time was 2.5 mL/L/hr which occurred on the 4th of February. All values were well below their respective permit limitations.

Oil and Grease

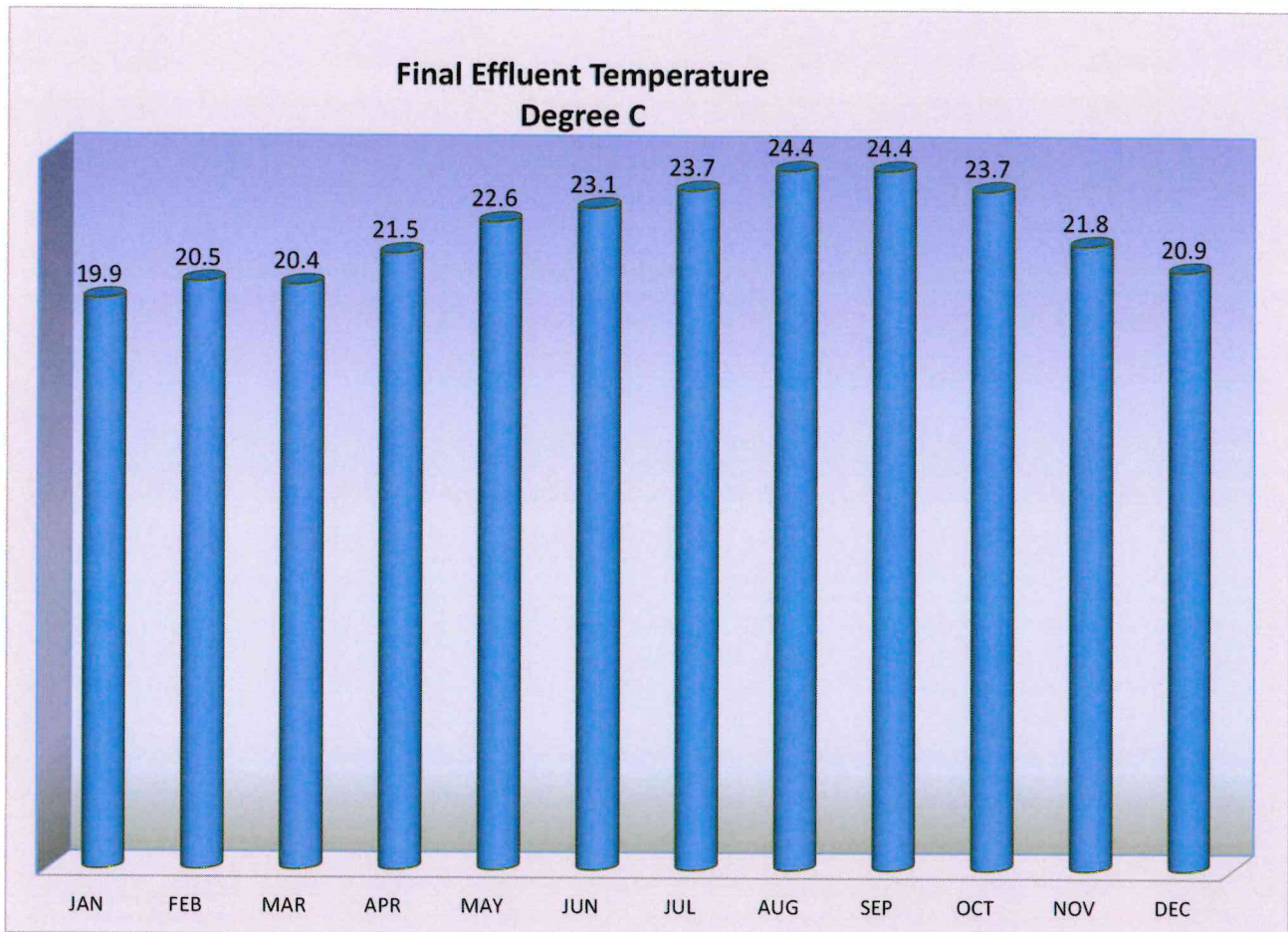
Effluent oil and grease were monitored weekly. Monthly average results are shown graphically in Figure 2-7. Prior to August 2007 Freon was the solvent used in the standard method to extract oil and greases from water samples. According to EPA regulations, in August 2007 the GSD laboratory ceased using Freon as the extraction solvent and began using hexane as the required solvent. The District continued to use the liquid-liquid extraction method, the only change at this time was the solvent. In December 2010, the GSD laboratory began analyzing for oil and grease using the approved standard solid phase extraction (SPE) EPA 1664 method. However, oil and grease samples were also subcontracted to OEC during the year. The current permit, R3-2017-0021, eliminated the influent oil and grease monitoring requirement.

Effluent grease and oil concentrations were low during 2025. All monthly, weekly, and maximum permit limits were met. Mass emissions values ranged from a monthly average low of 46 lbs/day in January to a high of 128 lbs/day in June. Both are well below the permit limitation of 1,590 lbs/day. Monthly average oil and grease concentrations in the effluent ranged from below the reporting limit of (1.5 or 1.7) mg/L to 3.4 mg/L. See Table 2-2 for a visual representation of the monthly average results. All permit limitations for effluent oil and grease were met during 2025.

Figure 2-7. Effluent Grease and Oil 2025 Monthly Averages

Temperature

Effluent temperature was sampled five days per week throughout 2025. The data reflect a typical response to seasonal changes (Figure 2-8). The coolest temperatures occurred during January with average monthly temperatures of 19.9 ° C. A warming trend continued throughout the summer and fall months to reach a monthly averaged high of 24.4 ° C in August and September. The year began with the coolest average temperatures and ended with a cooling trend.

Figure 2-8. Effluent Discharge Temperature 2025 Monthly Averages

Wastewater Disinfection

Sodium hypochlorite is used to disinfect the treated wastewater at the Goleta Sanitary District. The sodium hypochlorite is flash mixed into the wastewater at the beginning of the chlorine contact channel. At an average effluent flow rate of 4 MGD, the chlorine is in contact with the wastewater for approximately 2½ hours (145 minutes).

The Goleta Sanitary District maintains its chlorine contact tank to provide maximum chlorination effectiveness at all times. The chlorine residual at the end of the chlorine contact channel averaged around 5.0 mg/L during 2025. The average monthly values are reported in Table 2-3.

After the disinfection process is complete, the sodium hypochlorite is neutralized (dechlorinated) by adding sodium bisulfite to the wastewater stream. This process lowers residual chlorine to levels that are environmentally safe, before discharge to the ocean such that the chlorine poses no risk to the receiving water environment. Treatment plant

personnel continuously monitor the residual chlorine levels as required by the NPDES permit.

The permit limitations for residual chlorine in the effluent immediately prior to discharge and after dechlorination are as follows: 6-month median of 0.25 mg/L, daily maximum of 0.98 mg/L, and instantaneous maximum of 7.4 mg/L. After dechlorination, the monthly average for the instantaneous maximum residual chlorine levels fluctuated throughout the year; ranging from 0.04 mg/L to 0.61 mg/L. The monthly average values for daily maximum chlorine residuals are shown in Table 2-3.

Effluent Bacteria

The effluent was analyzed five days a week for total coliforms, fecal coliforms and enterococcus bacteria. The permit specifies that effluent limits will apply if the Executive Officer concludes that the discharge consistently exceeds receiving water limitations. The monthly average values for total coliform, fecal coliform, and enterococcus bacteria detected in the effluent are presented in Table 2 3. Monthly average values ranged from 16 to 2333 MPN/100 mL for total coliform, from 2.1 to 33 MPN/100 mL for fecal coliform, and 1.5 to 180 MPN/100 mL for enterococcus. The monthly mean values presented below illustrate that the results were relatively low throughout the year, thereby demonstrating the effectiveness of the chlorination process.

Table 2-3. Chlorine and Bacteria Monthly Averages, 2025

Month	Chlorine at the end of the CCC	Daily Maximum Chlorine after Dechlorination	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococcus
	mg/L	mg/L	MPN/100mL		
January	5.1	0.22	96	3.7	37
February	5.1	0.47	2333	33	180
March	5.0	0.22	16	2.4	8.7
April	5.0	0.20	81	2.1	25
May	5.0	0.32	122	2.2	1.7
June	5.1	0.61	70	2.5	1.5
July	5.0	0.04	82	4.1	2.1
August	5.0	0.25	32	2.5	1.5
September	5.3	0.17	41	2.8	7.9
October	5.1	0.39	39	3.4	2.0
November	5.0	0.29	36	2.2	5.1
December	5.0	0.14	91	3.6	5.3

Priority Pollutants and Metals

The NPDES permit requires priority pollutant and metals analyses to be performed on the final effluent samples annually. Samples were collected during October as specified in the permit. However, several of the analyses did not achieve reporting limits at a low enough level to demonstrate compliance with effluent limitations. Therefore, additional samples were collected during November. All detected results from both sampling events are reported. Compounds detected in the final effluent samples are presented in Table 2-4; complete copies of the laboratory reports listing all the chemical compounds and analytical methods are available for review at the Goleta Sanitary District laboratory. Seventeen compounds were detected in the effluent. Concentrations of detected chemicals are all reported as parts per billion except for TCDD and radioactivity which the units are noted next to the parameter in the table.

Table 2-4. Detected Priority Pollutants and Metals, Goleta Sanitary District, 2025

Parameter, units	Effluent, ug/L
Ammonia	30,000
Antimony	0.80
Chloroform	1.4
Chloroform	2.1
Chromium	0.52
Copper	2.7
Copper	3.3
2-Methylnaphthalene	0.028
Naphthalene	0.098
Nickel	3.6
Selenium	0.74
TCDD, equivalents, pg/L	ND
Toluene	0.59
Toluene	1.1
Zinc	14
Zinc	20
Radioactivity, Gross Alpha pCi/L	-0.203
Radioactivity, Gross Beta pCi/L	18.3
ND = Not Detected	

DISCHARGE COMPLIANCE

Throughout 2025 the wastewater discharge from Goleta Sanitary District complied with all applicable permit effluent limitations. All other monitored parameters were below their respective limitations as required by the permit. All metals, priority pollutants, and pesticides were low or undetected throughout the year.

OCEAN OUTFALL CONDITIONS

The outfall pipeline, diffuser section, and armor rock protection were inspected by divers from Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Laboratories, Inc. in October 2025. A report was prepared documenting the inspection findings of the diffuser section and along the outfall pipeline and armor rock.

During the diffuser dive survey, 36 diffuser ports were carefully inspected for flow and general efficiency. The remainder of the outfall pipe was inspected for damage, leaks or evidence of leaks and general stability of the pipe and armor rock. Inspection of the outfall yielded no evidence of damage, holes, cracks, or erosion. The pipe and associated armor rock appeared stable with little or no displacement.

The complete report of the outfall dive survey is included as Chapter 4 of this report. The outfall dive video is available for review upon request.

CHAPTER 3

COLLECTION SYSTEM ANNUAL SUMMARY

Background

Sanitary sewer spills associated with the Goleta Sanitary District's collection system are subject to the online reporting and notification requirements set forth in the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Statewide Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Sanitary Sewer Systems Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ. The Goleta Sanitary District is enrolled under the WDR.

GSD completed the Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) in December 2006 and reviews and revises the SSMP as required. The District's SSMP was updated in August 2025 in accordance with the SWRCB WDR. The District's Spill Emergency Response Plan (SERP) was updated June 2023 and revised in July 2025 in accordance with the SWRCB WDR.

This annual report summarizes all lift station and collection system spills that occurred during 2025 and includes, the cause, corrective actions taken and corrective actions planned. In conjunction with the annual report the District continues to maintain and update its SSMP as required to ensure that the elements of the sewer system management plan are current and being used effectively to minimize the frequency and impacts of any sewer spills which may occur in the District service area.

Annual Reporting Requirement

This chapter is included as part of the wastewater treatment plant annual report.

Summary of 2025 Spills

Lift Station Spills

There were no lift station spills that occurred within the Goleta Sanitary District service area during 2025.

Collection System Spills

There were no collection system spills that occurred within the Goleta Sanitary District service area during 2025.

Discussion

The Goleta Sanitary District's SSMP has been completed and complies with all current requirements of the SWRCB WDR. In February 2025 Fischer Compliance, LLC completed an audit of the District's SSMP to evaluate its effectiveness in preventing spills, compliance with the SWRCB WDR, and to identify necessary modifications to the SSMP to correct deficiencies. The audit covered August 2, 2021 through August 2, 2024. This

audit is required by the SWRCB WDR to be completed by the District at least every three years. The audit findings were incorporated into the August 2025 SSMP update. Staff is currently working on addressing the areas of concern identified in the audit. Staff is also working on following the implementation plan/schedule for each element of the SSMP.

4.0 Introduction

Biologists conducted an underwater video dive survey of the outfall pipe and diffuser from the Goleta Sanitary Water Resource Recovery District on October 11th, 2025. The purposes of the survey were to inspect the physical integrity of the outfall pipe and associated armor rock and to note any impediments of flow from the 36 diffuser ports. In addition, biologists also assessed the presence of attached and mobile marine organisms that were associated with the outfall and the diffuser.



4.1 Materials and Methods

Two Ecomarine Consulting divers conducted the survey using GoPro Hero 11 Black cameras set to wide viewing, with two pairs of Sea & Sea Sola 1200 lumen video lights. Once the outfall had been located by global positioning (GPS) and bottom finder, a buoy, attached to a line and a weight, was deployed over the side. The terminus was inspected and filmed first followed by the west and east lateral ports (100 ft. to 60 ft.), the deep and middle outfall (60 ft. to 40 ft.) and shallow outfall (40 ft. to surf zone).

The footage was downloaded to computer files, backed up and edited using *Adobe Premiere Pro 2025* software. The footage was then reviewed by the Aquatic Bioassay Biologists to assess the conditions of the outfall. The video is arranged from the deepest part of the dives (outfall terminus) to the shallowest part of the dives (outfall beginning).

4.2 Results

Outfall dive surveys were conducted between approximately 0900 and 1700 hours on October 11th, 2025. Water temperature was 16.7 °C at depth and 20.0 °C at the surface. Turbidity was low, except in the area near the surf zone. Offshore horizontal visibility was approximately 20-25 ft and 10-15 ft in the nearshore area. Appendix A provides a taxa list for fish, macroinvertebrates and algae.

4.2.1 Diffuser Section (Depth: 100 TO 60 ft)

4.2.1.1 Physical Description

The pipe survey was conducted in October in the hopes that water clarity would be optimal for taking video footage of the pipe. The diffuser section contains 34 lateral and two terminal discharge ports. The lateral ports are alternately arranged 17 on each side of the diffuser. The end of the pipe is closed except for the two terminal ports, which



are situated one above the other. There were no obstructions on the upper port of the terminus cap, however there was little or no flow from both the upper and lower terminal ports.

Lateral ports were observed and videotaped, starting at the terminus and moving shoreward on the west side of the pipe, then from the terminus down the east side until the most shoreward west port was occupied at the beginning of the diffuser. Along the length of the diffuser pipe, no evidence of leaks, damage, erosion, holes, or cracks were observed, and all of the ports were flowing freely.

An approximately one meter high bed of armor rock supports the diffuser section. Intermittent observations of the supporting armor rock revealed a stable bed of rock with little displacement throughout the diffuser section. Probably during initial construction, the diffuser section appears to have been rotated counter-clockwise (as if one were facing the terminus). Thus, the line across east and west diffuser ports is not parallel to the sea floor, and west ports are about 30 cm lower than east ports. Armor rock covers the outfall from the shoreward beginning of the diffuser to the shoreward beginning of the outfall in very shallow water. The thickness of the armor rock is about one meter.

4.2.1.2 Biological Description

Because of the depth and relative low light at the diffuser (100 ft), algal species are typically scarce. Algae that were present included the kelp *Desmarestia ligulate*, a tubular and leafy red alga (Rhodophyta), crustose coralline algae (Corallinaceae) and the Turkish Towel (*Chondracanthus sp.*). Among invertebrates, colonial strawberry anemones (*Corynactis californica*), red gorgonian (*Lophogorgia chilensis*), California golden gorgonian (*Muricea fruticose*), diamondback nudibranch (*Tritonia festiva*), giant keyhole limpets (*Megathura crenulata*), bat star (*Patiria miniate*), parchment anemone (*Pachycerianthus fimbriatus*), red urchin (*Mesocentrotus franciscanus*), purple urchin (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*), parchment anemone (*Pachycerianthus fimbriatus*), and various species of colonial hydroids and bryozoans dominated. Tube worms and especially the strawberry anemones were commonly observed surrounding the diffuser ports. Sheepshead (*Semicossyphus pulcher*), painted greenling (*Oxylebius pictus*), barred sandbass (*Paralabrax nebulifer*), kelp bass (*Paralabrax clathratus*), blacksmith (*Chromis punctipinnis*), brown rockfish (*Sebastes auriculatus*), gopher rockfish (*Sebastes carnatus*), and kelp rockfish (*Sebastes atrovirens*) were observed either on the pipe, or in its immediate vicinity.

4.2.2 Deep and Middle Outfall Section (Depth: 60 TO 40 ft)

4.2.2.1 Physical Description

Throughout the dive survey, the outfall was completely covered by approximately one-meter layer of armor rock. The rock covered pipe extended vertically from the sea floor for about 2 to 3 meters and laterally for about 6 to 7 meters. The armor rock bed appeared stable with little displacement throughout this section. No obvious leaks or discoloration were observed from the armor rock covering the top or sides of the outfall pipe.



4.2.2.2 Biological Description

In this section of the outfall, crustose coralline alga (Corallinaceae), foliose red algae (*Gigartina* sp.) and several species of brown algae (Phaeophyta) including giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*), dominated the algal community. Among invertebrates, the most abundant were the colonial strawberry anemones (*Corynactis californica*), red gorgonian (*Loptogorgia chilensis*), California golden gorgonian (*Muricea fruticose*), brown gorgonian (*Muricea fruticose*), several species of bryozoans, tunicates, sponges, red urchin (*Mesocentrotus franciscanus*), California sea cucumber (*Apostichopus parvimensis*), giant sea star (*Pisaster giganteus*), bat star (*Patriana miniate*), California spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*), wavy top turban snail (*Megastraea undosa*), Ida's miter (*Atrimitra idea*), Kellet's whelk (*Kelletia kelletii*) and giant keyhole limpets (*Megathura crenulata*). Several fish species were observed including sheepshead (*Semicossyphus pulcher*), barred sandbass (*Paralabrax nebulifer*), kelpbass (*Paralabrax clathratus*), Garibaldi (*Hypsypops rubicundus*), opaleye (*Girella nigricans*), sargo (*Anisotremus davidsonii*), kelp rockfish (*Sebastes atrovirens*), vermilion rockfish (*Sebastes miniatus*), black and gold rockfish (*Sebastes chrysomelas*), painted greenling (*Oxylebius pictus*), black eyed goby (*Rhinogobiops nicholsii*) and blacksmith (*Chromis punctipinnis*).

4.2.3 Middle and Shallow Outfall Section (Depth: 40 ft To Surf Zone)

4.2.3.1 Physical Description

As with the previous section, this outfall section was covered by about one meter of armor rock. The armor rock covered pipe extended horizontally and laterally as above. The armor rock bed appeared stable with little displacement throughout this section. No obvious leaks or discoloration were observed from the armor rock covering the top or sides of the outfall pipe.

4.2.3.2 Biological Description

Dominant algae in this pipe section included crustose coralline algae and several species of brown algae including giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) and feathery boa kelp (*Egregia menziesii*). Among the macroinvertebrates, tunicates, purple urchin (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*), red urchin (*Mesocentrotus franciscanus*), giant keyhole limpets (*Megathura crenulata*), Spanish shawl (*Flabellinopsis iodinea*), wavy top turban snail (*Megastraea undosa*), giant sea star (*Pisaster giganteus*), bat star (*Patriana miniate*), California sea cucumber (*Apostichopus parvimensis*), California golden gorgonian (*Muricea fruticose*), and red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) were most dominant. Fish species observed at this depth included sheepshead (*Semicossyphus pulcher*), opaleye (*Girella nigricans*), Garibaldi (*Hypsypops rubicundus*), kelp bass (*Paralabrax clathratus*), white perch (*Phanerodon furcatus*), pile perch (*Rhacochilus vacca*), scorpion fish (*Scorpaena guttata*), painted greenling (*Oxylebius pictus*), sargo (*Anisotremus davidsonii*) and blacksmith (*Chromis punctipinnis*).



Discussion

During the diffuser dive survey, 36 diffuser ports were carefully inspected for flow and general efficiency. This year, none of the diffuser ports were obstructed with debris and all of the ports were flowing freely. The remainder of the outfall pipe was inspected for damage, leaks or evidence of leaks and general stability of the pipe and armor rock. Inspection of the outfall yielded no evidence of damage, holes, cracks, or erosion. The pipe and associated armor rock appeared stable with little or no displacement.

The outfall continues to support a rocky reef community typical of other areas on the central California coast. A visual survey yielded numerous different species of kelp, macroinvertebrates, and fishes. A number of species of fish were represented by juvenile or larval forms, which indicates that recruitment has been occurring. Fish appeared healthy, with no evidence of deformities, tumors, fin rot, or lesions.



Appendix A



Fish	Macroinvertebrates			Macroalgae		
	species	common name	species	common name	species	common name
<i>Anisotremus davidsonii</i>	sargo		<i>Aglaophenia struthionides</i>	ostrich-plume hydroid	brown algae	acid weed
<i>Brachyistius frenatus</i>	kelp surf perch		<i>albomarginata</i>	white-line nudibranch	<i>Desmarestia ligulata</i>	dictyota weed
<i>Chromis punctipinnis</i>	blacksmith		<i>Balanophyllia elegans</i>	orange cup coral	<i>Dictyota coriacea</i>	feather boa kelp
<i>Cephaloscyllium ventriosum</i>	swell shark (egg case)		<i>Boltenia villosa</i>	bristly tunicate	<i>Egregia menziesii</i>	oarweed
<i>Cymatogaster aggregata</i>	shiner surf perch		<i>Bugula</i> sp.	brown bryozoan	<i>Laminaria farlowii</i>	giant kelp
<i>Embiotoca jacksoni</i>	black surf perch		<i>Cadlina modesta</i>	modest nudibranch	<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>	Gardener's alga
<i>Girella nigricans</i>	opaleye		<i>Conualevia alba</i>	white smooth-horn doris	<i>Pleurophycus gardeneri</i>	stalked kelp
<i>Hyperprosopon argenteum</i>	walleye surf perch		<i>Corynactis californica</i>	strawberry anemone	<i>Pterygophora californica</i>	bladder chain kelp
<i>Hypsypops rubicundus</i>	garibaldi		<i>Crassadoma gigantea</i>	purple-hinge scallop	<i>Stephanocystis osmundacea</i>	dotted peacock weed
<i>Ophiodon elongatus</i>	lingcod		<i>Crassata californica</i>	frog whelk	<i>Taonia atomaria</i>	
<i>Oxylebius pictus</i>	painted greenling		<i>Dermasterias imbricata</i>	leather star	red algae	
<i>Paralabrax clathratus</i>	kelp bass		<i>Diaulula sandiegensis</i>	San Diego doris	<i>Acrosorium ciliolatum</i>	
<i>Paralabrax nebulifer</i>	barred sand bass white		<i>Epizoanthus scotinus</i>	yellow zooanthid	<i>Ahnfeltiopsis linearis</i>	
<i>Phanerodon furcatus</i>	sea perch		<i>Halichandria</i> sp.	yellow sponge	<i>Callophyllis flabellulata</i>	
<i>Rhacochilus vacca</i>	pile perch		<i>Haliotis fulgens</i>	green abalone	<i>Callophyllis pinnata</i>	
<i>Rhacochilus toxotes</i>	rubberlip seaperch		<i>Kelletia kelletii</i>	Kellett's whelk	<i>Chondracanthus</i> sp.	Turkish towel
<i>Rhinogobiops nicholsii</i>	black eyed goby		<i>Lophogorgia chilensis</i>	red gorgonian	<i>Corallina officinalis chilensis</i>	coralline red alga
<i>Sebastes atrovirens</i>	kelp rockfish		<i>Megastrea undosa</i>	wavy top turban snail	<i>Cryptopleura ruprechtiana</i>	ruffled red seaweed
<i>Sebastes auriculatus</i>	brown rockfish		<i>Megathura crenulata</i>	keyhole limpet	<i>Gelidium robustum</i>	
<i>Sebastes carnatus</i>	gopher rockfish		<i>Mesocentrotus franciscanus</i>	red urchin	<i>Gracilaria longissima</i>	
<i>Sebastes dalli</i>	calico rockfish		<i>Muricea californica</i>	California gorgonian	<i>Halymenia</i> sp.	dragons breath alga
<i>Sebastes miniatus</i>	vermillion rockfish		<i>Muricea fruticosa</i>	brown gorgonian	<i>Leptocladia binghamiae</i>	
<i>Sebastes mystinus</i>	blue rockfish		<i>Neobernaya spadicea</i>	chestnut cow	<i>Prionitis australis</i>	
<i>Sebastes serranoides</i>	olive rockfish California		<i>Ophiothrix spiculata</i>	western spiny brittle star	<i>Rhodomenia californica</i>	
<i>Semicossyphus pulcher</i>	sheephead		<i>Pachycerianthus fimbriatus</i>	parchment anemone	<i>Sarcodiotheca furcata</i>	
			<i>Panulirus interruptus</i>	California lobster	<i>Stenogramma californicum</i>	
			<i>Patiria miniata</i>	bat star	green algae	
			<i>Peltodoris nobilis</i>	sea lemon nudibranch	<i>Ulva californica</i>	sea lettuce
			<i>Pisaster giganteus</i>	giant sea star		
			<i>Pisaster ocraceus</i>	ochre sea star		
			<i>Praethecereus bellostratus</i>	striped flatworm		
			<i>Spherospongia confederata</i>	grey moon sponge		
			<i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus</i>	purple urchin		
			<i>Styela montereyensis</i>	Monterey tunicate		
			<i>Triopha occidentalis</i>	western doris		
			<i>Tritonia festiva</i>	diamondback nudibranch		

