



Goleta West Sanitary District

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Goleta West Sanitary District Pleased With Lower Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Costs

Goleta, CA – The Goleta West Sanitary District is extremely pleased with the news that bids for the planned major upgrades to Goleta Valley's wastewater treatment facility have come in well below the expected amount, saving Goleta and Isla Vista customers millions of dollars.

Improvements were initially expected to cost in the \$50 million range, but submitted bids ranged between \$29 and \$36 million. This means Goleta West Sanitary District will be able to retain a significant portion of its share of upgrade costs to fund ongoing and planned projects without rate increases.

Serving the entire Goleta Valley, the plant is owned and operated by the Goleta Sanitary District and is co-funded by the district's western partners; Goleta West Sanitary District and UCSB. Goleta West Sanitary District's project share is 40%.

Tuesday, February 22 the Goleta Sanitary District will consider awarding the contract for the mandatory upgrades that will bring the plant to full secondary treatment, as well as meet stricter state requirements.

"We are very pleased this project came in well under what was estimated," stated Goleta West Sanitary District Board President Craig Geyer. "Because we saved for this project and were able to fund this with our planned reserves we are able to put this money back into other projects without burdening our customers with rate increases," Geyer added.

Formed in 1954 the Goleta West Sanitary District provides wastewater collection and treatment to 6,000 customers in the western Goleta Valley and Isla Vista. Over the years the local government agency has been able to plan for projects such as the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and set money aside to fund these expensive and important projects. Subsequently, customers see some of the lowest rates in the area and the district has one of the most efficient and functioning sewer systems in the state.

"For years we have budgeted \$20 million for these upgrades, but our share now looks to be about \$12 million," said Mark Nation, General Manager Goleta West Sanitary District. "There are a lot of pending projects and programs that we will now be able to fund with the \$8 million savings. This is great news for our customers and the district."

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