

GOLETA SANITARY DISTRICT
GOLETA WEST SANITARY DISTRICT

ISSUES

INFORMATION ON ISSUES OF COMMUNITY CONCERN



KEEPING OUR BEACHES CLEAN

**WHAT YOUR
SANITARY DISTRICTS
ARE DOING ABOUT
THE PROBLEM...
AND WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO HELP**

THE REASON FOR OUR MESSAGE

Concerned citizens throughout the Goleta Valley - and indeed along the whole South Coast - are urging community action to keep our beaches clean. Continuing beach closures have produced surprise, concern, and indignation.

Fortunately, citizen groups, local government agencies, and the County are working hard to investigate, understand and resolve this problem.

THE PROBLEM: POLLUTED RUNOFF FROM THE WATERSHED

Early investigations show that the principal cause of beach contamination is polluted runoff from the watershed. This comes from common household and business sources: human encampments, leaking septic tanks, animal waste, improper disposal of car oil, fertilizers and pesticides. In a rainstorm, these and other pollutants are washed into storm drains and creeks, and then carried to the sea.

SANITARY DISTRICTS' ROLE - AND YOURS

This edition of Issues explains what Goleta Sanitary District and Goleta West Sanitary District are doing to keep our local ocean waters and beaches clean - and what you can do to help.

Wastewater Treatment Protects Local Beaches

INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

The Sanitary Districts prohibit businesses from flushing contaminants into the sewer system. They must remove and pretreat wastewater on-site.

POLLUTANTS FROM WATERSHED RUNOFF

The largest source of ocean water pollution is common substances such as fertilizers, animal wastes, and oils from automobiles. Wastes from human encampments and poorly operating septic systems are also a problem.

7 SURF-ZONE TESTED

SLOUGHS AND CREEKS

Local creeks may contain bacteria levels as much as 50 times greater than the State water standard for swimming.

BEST IN STATE

Year after year, Goleta's wastewater treatment plant earns awards for operating one of the best – and in some years the very best – sewage collection and treatment facilities in the entire State.

MEASUREMENTS AND REPORTING

Daily, weekly, monthly and annual reports are submitted to health and environmental regulators to assure that the treated wastewater is safe for the ocean environment.

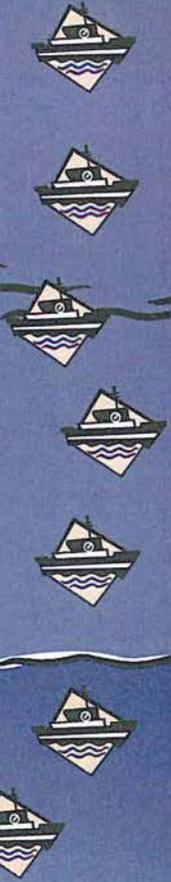
GOLETA

and Ocean Waters

OTHER TEST STATIONS
TESTED ANNUALLY



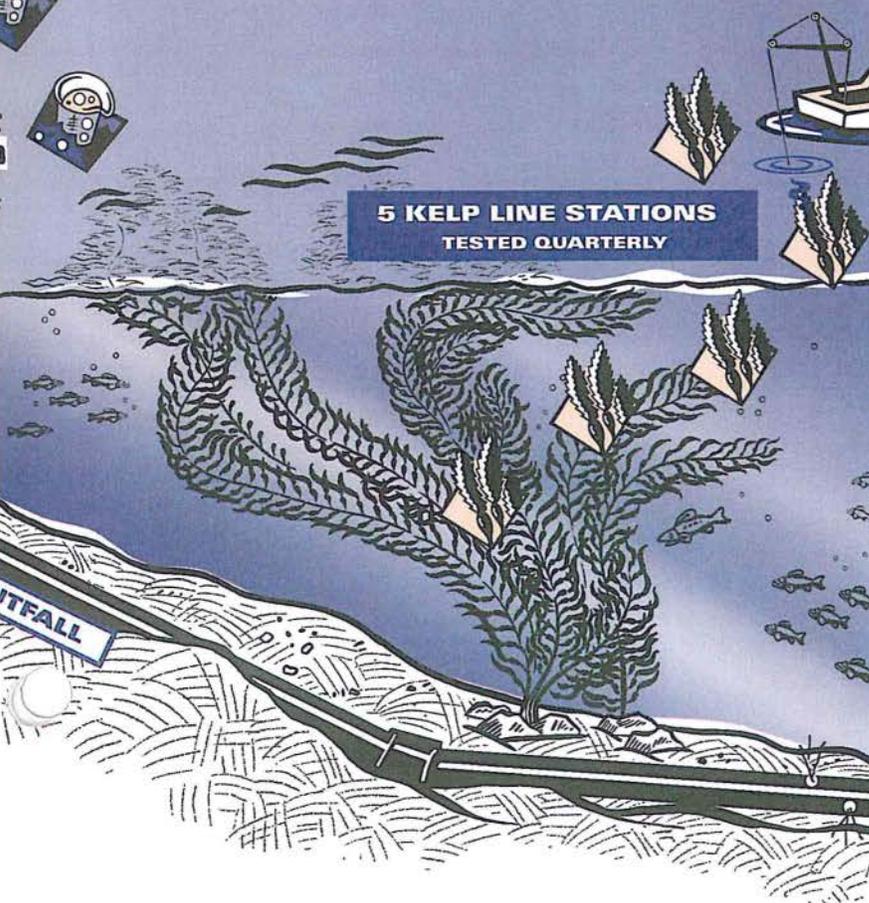
8 OFFSHORE TEST STATIONS
TESTED QUARTERLY



TEST STATIONS

Wastewater is tested at four locations before it reaches the ocean: in the treatment plant, during the treatment process, as it leaves the plant, and as it is discharged from the outfall pipeline. An array of additional test stations are deployed from the shoreline out to the deep ocean. The Districts test for over 100 substances, including several forms of bacteria.

5 KELP LINE STATIONS
TESTED QUARTERLY



OUTFALL TESTS

Goleta's ocean outfall pipeline discharges treated water about one mile out to sea and about 100 feet deep. It's diluted with 122 parts seawater to 1 part treated wastewater.

Protecting Public Health

The wastewater systems of both Goleta Sanitary District and Goleta West Sanitary District are designed to protect public health and the environment. Continuous testing shows that the wastewater treatment process is safe and fully effective.

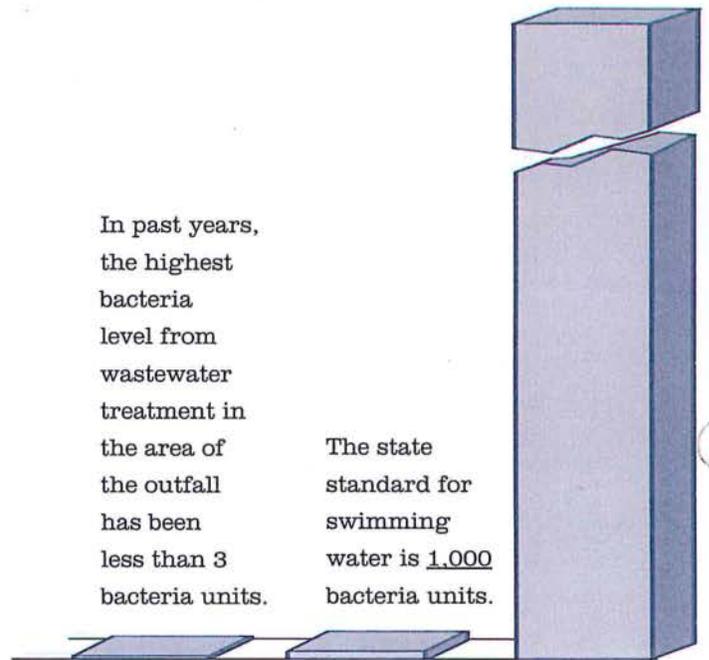
Watershed Runoff: Pollution is the Problem

Numerous studies show that the principal source of beach pollution is runoff from the watershed. This comes from corrals, human encampments, fertilizers and other sources washed into the sea during and after rainfall. As dramatically shown by the graph on the right, watershed runoff is by a large measure the greatest contributor to beach and ocean contamination.

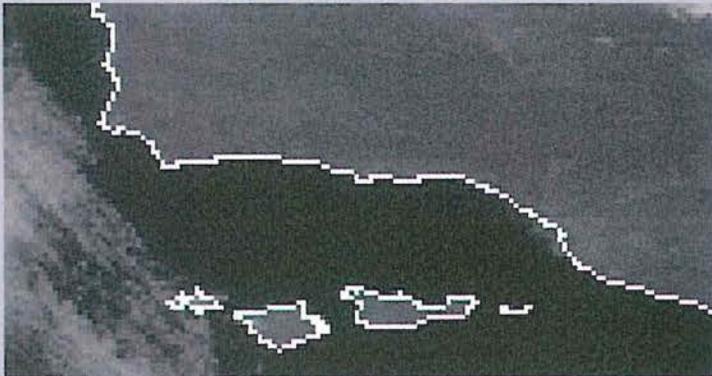
The highest bacteria levels in creeks after a storm can sometimes be 50,000 bacteria units.

In past years, the highest bacteria level from wastewater treatment in the area of the outfall has been less than 3 bacteria units.

The state standard for swimming water is 1,000 bacteria units.



Bacteria units are measured in Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 milliliters of water.

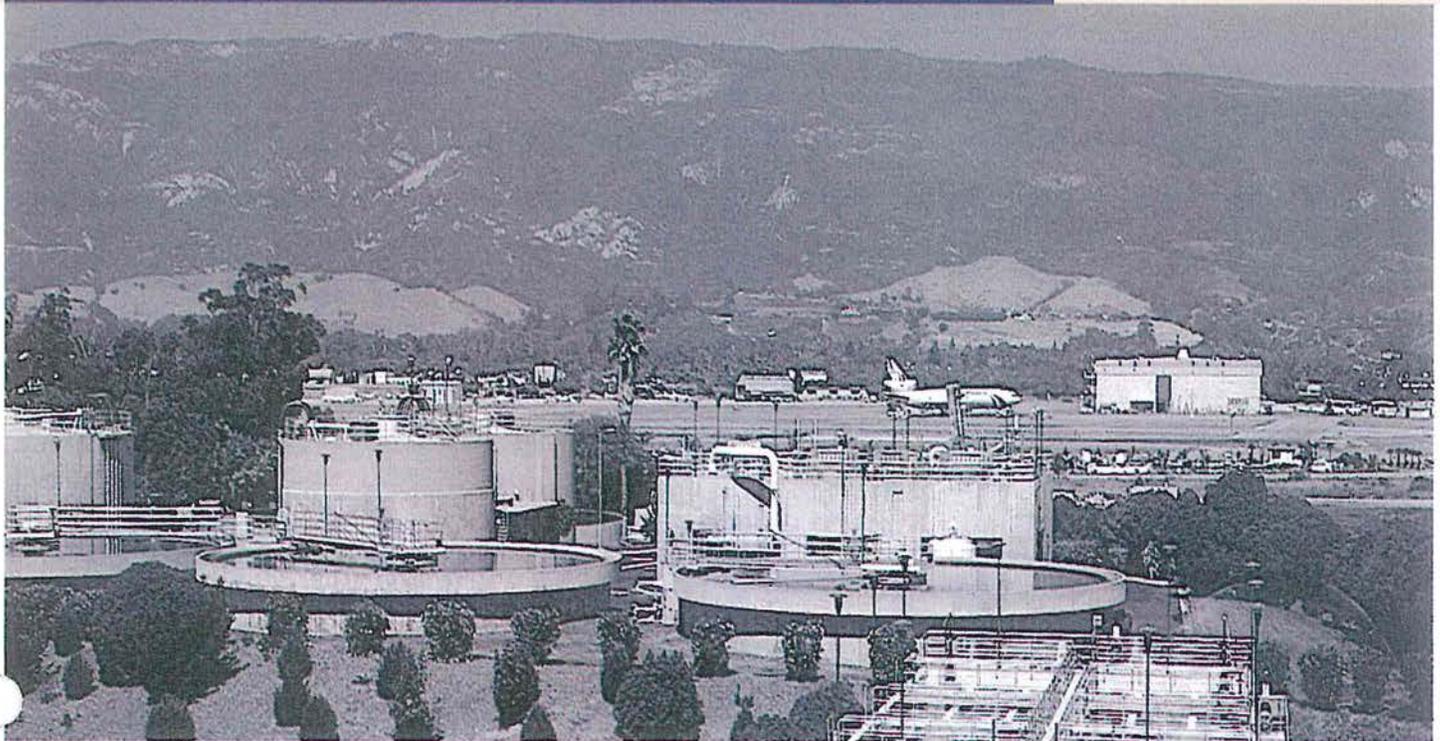


Two satellite images show the dramatic change in the amount of river sediment that flows into the ocean after rainfall. The image on the left shows clear water in the channel before significant rainfall occurred. The right image - taken after heavy rainfall - shows large amounts of river sediment flowing into the ocean.

Courtesy unpublished rainfall and SeaWifs data from L. Mertes and UCSB Plumes & Blooms project.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT...

HOW WE KEEP THE OCEAN WATERS CLEAN



Every day, millions of gallons of wastewater are gathered from throughout the Goleta Valley and transported to Goleta's wastewater treatment plant. There the water is treated, disinfected, tested, and safely discharged out to sea. This is how the process works:

PRETREATMENT AND EDUCATION

Industrial contaminants are prevented from entering the sewer system by industrial pretreatment programs which require that industries remove their own contaminants on-site. Education, inspection, testing and enforcement eliminate many pollutants in the wastewater before it enters the treatment plant.

HOW WASTEWATER IS TREATED

At Goleta's award-winning treatment plant, the wastewater is filtered and the solids allowed to settle out. A portion of the wastewater undergoes biological treatment and is allowed to settle out again. The biologically treated wastewater is blended with the remainder and disinfected. The remaining chlorine is then removed to protect the ocean environment.

HOW WASTEWATER IS TESTED

As required by State & Federal regulators, wastewater is tested and measured throughout the treatment process. In addition, seawater along the shore and along the kelp zone is tested, as are waters farther out to sea. Fish, shellfish, ocean plants and sediments from the ocean floor are also tested.

ASSURANCE OF SAFETY

A decade of comprehensive test data, involving thousands of scientific tests per year, clearly show that there are no harmful impacts to the public health or the ocean environment from Goleta's treated wastewater. Repeated tests over many years demonstrate that fish and sea life around the outfall pipeline are healthy and abundant.

You Can Help Improve Beach Water Quality

Prevent Contamination Runoff

Here are some actions individuals can take to reduce pollution.

■ **Manage Animal Waste.** Always use doggie bags when walking your pets. Horse and livestock owners must keep corrals clean and dispose of manure so that it does not flow into creeks.

■ **Dispose of Motor Oil,** paint and chemicals at the Free Household Hazardous Waste Site. Never pour chemicals on the ground or down storm drains.

■ **Manage Septic Systems Properly.** Pump solids out of septic tanks often, and ensure leach fields are working properly.

■ **Reduce Runoff of Fertilizers and Pesticides.** Try less toxic garden care products, and use native plants that don't require excess amounts of fertilizer.

■ **Prevent Water Runoff into the Sewer.** Runoff from roofs, gutters and yards should never be diverted to the sewer system. Excess storm water can overload the sewage treatment system.

Community Effort

Both of Goleta's Sanitary Districts support efforts by local governments and community groups to solve the non-point pollution problem. For further information, please contact:

Creek and Beach Protection

Audubon Society of S.B. (wetland restoration)	964-1468
Community Environmental Cncl. (Creek Watchers)	963-0583
Environmental Defense Center (land use issues)	963-1622
Surfrider Foundation (Blue Water Task Force)	899-2583
Urban Creeks Council (creek restoration & cleanup)	968-3000
U.C. Extension CA Aquatic Science Ed. Consortium	568-3330
Save Our Shores Water Quality Hotline	877-687-6232

Dispose of Motor Oil or Household Hazardous Waste

Used Oil Hotline	800-670-7645
Community Environmental Council	963-0583

Report a Spill or Pollution Incident (Creek or Ocean)

County Environmental Health	681-4900
Regional Water Quality Control Board	549-3147
C.A. Dept. of Fish and Game Tip Line	800-952-5400

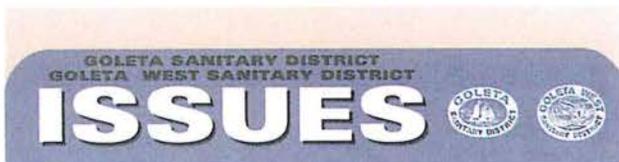
Septic or Gray Water System Maintenance

County Environmental Health	681-4900
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Beach Closures and Results of Weekly Ocean Testing

Santa Barbara News Press Listing (Saturday)	
Ocean Water Quality Hotline	681-4949
Website	www.sbophd.org/cleanwater/

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Goleta Sanitary District
1 William Moffett Place
Goleta, California 93117
Tel: (805) 967-4519
Fax: (805) 964-3583

Goleta West Sanitary District
P.O. Box 4
Goleta, California 93116-0004
Tel: (805) 968-2617
Fax: (805) 562-8987

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