



The Goleta Valley Is All About Community

We are always excited to be able to participate in community events. This year was no exception.

Mind the FOG this Holiday Season

FOG or Fats, Oils, and Grease that go down your drain, if not properly disposed of, cause major problems for homeowners and Goleta West Sanitary District.

Fats, Oils and Grease are a byproduct of cooking, and are found in such things as: meat fats, cooking oil, lard and shortening, butter and margarine. When Fats, Oils and Grease are washed down the drain, it may stick to the inside of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, it can build up and block an entire pipe.

Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the pipes, they only shred it into smaller pieces. Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may pass it down the line and cause problems away from the source. The results of a grease-blocked sewer pipe can be sewage overflows in your home or neighborhood resulting in expensive and unpleasant clean ups, possible exposure with disease-causing organisms, or an increase in maintenance costs at GWSD.

How to dispose of your FOG:

1. Pour FOG into a heat resistant covered disposable container. Store it in the freezer and put it in the trash after it has hardened.
2. Use paper towels to wipe greasy dishes before washing. Put the paper towels in the trash.
3. Use sink strainers to catch food waste. Put food scraps in compost bin or in the trash.
4. FOG waste should only be put in the trash.



To learn more about FOG and its proper disposal, visit our website at www.GoletaWest.org

Contain it, cool it, toss it!

Touch-a-Truck

Goleta West has been supporting PEP (Postpartum Education for Parents) by participating in Touch-a-Truck since the kick-off event 6 years ago. This year we again brought our Hydro Cleaning Vactor Truck and our street sweeper for community members to enjoy and learn about the service we provide.

This fun community event provides kids with the opportunity to learn about and explore more than 20 different trucks, construction vehicles, and public safety equipment. Kids love to sit in and play on the trucks and the event doubles as a fundraiser for PEP.

For more information on PEP and Touch-a-Truck visit www.peptouchatruck.org.



Meet the Newest Member of Our Team

Lawrence Hart, Utility Worker I

Lawrence began working with GWSD in January of this year. As a Utility Worker, he is responsible for operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection system, pump stations, equipment and vehicles.



Photography by Jay Farbman

Goleta Lemon Festival

For 24 years, the Lemon Festival has been the largest celebration in the Goleta area. It's a wonderful family atmosphere with food, entertainment and activities for all to enjoy.

GWSD was honored to again be a sponsor of this amazing community event. If you didn't make it this year, please come next year. Maybe you will see one of our directors or staff members participating in the pie eating contest.

For more information about the Lemon Festival visit www.LemonFestival.com.

Your Infrastructure Dollars At Work

Goleta West Sanitary District Newsletter

Winter 2016

GOLETA
WEST
SANITARY DISTRICT

Board of Directors

Craig Geyer
President

Larry D. Meyer
Vice-President

Dave Bearman, MD

Dr. David C. Lewis

Eva Turenchalk

What's makes Special Districts so special?*

For over 100 years, local service agencies known as Special Districts, such as GWSD, have kept our lights on, kept the water flowing and provided access to a multitude of services that enhance our communities.

California's Special Districts are much more than local service providers. They provide vital services like treatment of wastewater, transportation, parks and recreation, airports, cemeteries, water and energy, fire protection and public safety, libraries, garbage removal, and much more.

Special Districts safeguard our communities, they work arduously to keep our families healthy, and they help our state thrive.

As the most local form of government, Special Districts are directly accountable to their voters and their ratepayers through:

- Boards that are elected directly by the Districts' voters
- Direct accountability to their voters and ratepayers
- Requirements to submit annual financial and compensation reports to the State Controller
- Meeting requirements mandated by state laws pertaining to public meetings, bonded debt, record keeping, and elections

Through innovative strategies and solutions, Sanitary Districts have been able to restore many natural habitats in communities throughout the state.

Effluent Flow was first used by a Sanitary District in California to restore wetlands and marshes that now host over 100 species of birds in northern California.

**Thanks to the California Special Districts Association for this information.*

For more information on Special Districts visit www.districtsmakethedifference.org



Our Special District

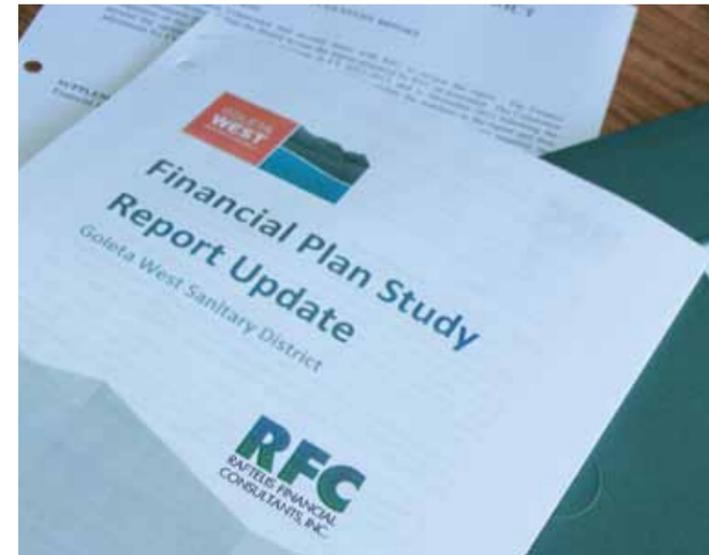
In 1952, a group of concerned citizens residing in Isla Vista got together to address a common problem -what should be done with wastewater in this growing community? The result was one hundred people voting in the first election, officially forming the Isla Vista Sanitary District (IVSD) on November 8, 1954.

IVSD established a five member elected Board of Directors and hired a General Manager. By the late 1950s, over five miles of sewer lines had been installed in Isla Vista. Due to rapid growth during the 1960's and 70's, the system expanded to cover not only Isla Vista, but also the western Goleta Valley.

The District commenced providing street sweeping service for public roads through an outsourced contract in October 1963. In 1969, this activity was brought in-house with the purchase of a street sweeper and additional staff.

Audit Reveals Finances in Excellent Shape!

As required by law an annual independent audit of the District's financial statements was completed. The District's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 were audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. A clean opinion or "unqualified opinion" was issued by the independent auditors - meaning no problems were found. An audit includes examining supporting evidence, testing account balances and assessing the accounting principles used as well as overall financial statement presentation.



In an effort to more accurately describe the District's service area, the Board of Directors changed the agency's name to Goleta West Sanitary District in April 1990. From the original grid of Isla Vista, the District has greatly expanded its infrastructure, and currently serves nearly 6,000 service connections, over 32,000 residents and maintains over 62 miles of a wastewater collection system including gravity lines, manholes, pump stations, and force mains.

GWSD is run by a staff of seven, some of whom have worked for the District for over 20 years. Staff and a five member Board of Directors are dedicated to providing high quality, efficient and cost effective service to its customers.

For more information on Special Districts visit www.districtsmakethedifference.org

Transparency Certificate of Excellence

Awarded to Goleta West Sanitary District

Goleta West Sanitary District was awarded the Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation. For the second consecutive time the District was recognized for its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance to its customers and the general public.

SDLF
**SPECIAL DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**

