

PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 1, 2024

For Immediate Release

Contact: Brian McCarthy

Information Regarding Reported Sewage Spill

On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, the Goleta West Sanitary District (GWSD) discovered an approximately 6,000 gallon sewage spill from a manhole located at the Santa Barbara Airport to a manmade Airport stormwater outfall basin located within a larger, dry stormwater management area in the Goleta Slough (known as "Management Area D"). GWSD immediately stopped the spill and mobilized cleanup efforts.

GWSD currently estimates the spill volume at less than 10,000 gallons. It appears the cause is mechanical failure where an air release valve was previously removed. The location of the spill does not pose a risk of discharge to a tributary, and GWSD is working diligently to remove all of the spilled wastewater from the stormwater outfall basin.

GWSD notified all oversight agencies, including the California Office of Emergency Services, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Santa Barbara County Health Department, of the spill.

GWSD continues to focus on cleanup, investigation, and initial spill reporting, and will continue to work closely with all relevant parties to ensure notice and coordination.

GWSD continues to evaluate the condition of this force main, which is well within its lifespan, and will include this current spill investigation in its overall assessment and next steps. The District was just preparing to undertake an additional assessment of the force main in the coming weeks, with its most recent discussion of this effort at its October 15, 2024 Special Board Meeting.

Public and media inquiries can be directed to bmccarthy@goletawest.org or (805)968-2617.