



## No Drugs Down the Drain

When spring cleaning this year, remember you can help keep our wastewater free of pharmaceutical contamination by joining Goleta West Sanitary District in supporting Santa Barbara County's "Operation Medicine Cabinet."

At one time it was common practice to flush prescription medicines down the toilet. However, it is now known that flushing medications can be harmful to our environment - affecting both water quality and the health of our oceans and beaches.

### What should you do with your expired medications?

Drop off stations are located at each of the Sheriff's nine substations throughout the County. Residents can deposit all unwanted medications (both prescription and over-the-counter) in the white metal drop-boxes located outside the substations.

### Drop off stations

The three locations in the Goleta and UCSB area are:

- Isla Vista Substation – 6504 Trigo Road
- Goleta Substation – 7042 Marketplace Drive
- Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center – UCSB, Building 565, Mesa Road

For more information:

Call: 805-882-3615

Visit: [www.sbsheriff.org](http://www.sbsheriff.org)  
[www.lessismore.org](http://www.lessismore.org)



## Meet Ruben Chavez - Your Street Sweeper Operator

Ruben is perhaps our most visible employee. You can see him driving our street sweeper around town on any given day.

Ruben has been with the District for 18 years. He is responsible for all aspects of our street sweeping program. A program we have had in service since 1963.

Each year, Ruben and our street sweeper remove tons of trash, and other harmful waste that would otherwise go into our creeks and to our beaches.

Ruben takes a lot of pride in his work and the benefit it provides our environment. One way to help ensure the maximum amount of waste is diverted from our creeks and beaches is to remember to move your vehicles off the street on sweeping day. For more information on your street sweeping day visit [www.GoletaWest.com/customer-information/street-sweeping/](http://www.GoletaWest.com/customer-information/street-sweeping/)



# Your Infrastructure Dollars At Work

# Goleta West Sanitary District Newsletter

Spring 2015

GOLETA  
WEST  
SANITARY DISTRICT

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[www.GoletaWest.com](http://www.GoletaWest.com)

## Contact Us

UCSB Campus,  
Parking Lot 32  
P.O. Box 4, Goleta, CA  
93116-0004

[info@GoletaWest.com](mailto:info@GoletaWest.com)  
District Office:  
805.968.2617  
Fax: 805.562.8987

## Mesa Road Project Completed!

We are pleased to announce that our Mesa Road Project has been completed.

In July of last year the District embarked on this \$9.5 million project. Due to poor soil conditions, we used a process called "microtunneling" to install the new pipeline beneath the existing pavement of Mesa Road. This process proved very successful; the installation of the new pipeline is now complete and the pipeline is fully operational. This extensive and complex project provides an important infrastructure improvement that will serve the community for generations to come.

The project also included abandoning the old pipeline located within the East Storke Wetlands. In cooperation with UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, an ambitious habitat restoration project is now underway in the wetland area.

We thank you for your patience during the construction of this environmentally important infrastructure project.



## Mesa Road Trunk Line Restoration Project

### Restoration Project Underway

The Storke Wetland, which was a historically tidal part of the Goleta Slough Estuary, is valuable habitat that currently supports extensive salt marsh as well as freshwater and transitional upland habitat. The replacement of the old Mesa Road pipeline, which was located just south of Mesa Road in the East Storke Wetlands, has allowed the District to embark on an ambitious and long planned habitat restoration project.

Pipeline maintenance activities will no longer be necessary in the wetland area. This allows for the restoration of impacted areas of the wetland, including abandonment/removal of the access road and infrastructure, as well as reestablishment of native vegetation and invasive weed management over a five-year mitigation period.

In December of 2014, six manholes were removed and portions of the access road in the wetland were taken down to the elevation of the existing salt marsh in order to allow native vegetation to establish. In January of 2015, over 1500 grams of native salt marsh seed were spread and more than 600 native salt marsh plants were planted in the impacted areas. Fifteen native coast live oaks were also planted on the southern upland mesa of the wetland to mitigate for the needed removal of five Italian Stone Pines lining Mesa Road. All of the plant material used for the restoration was collected from the local area to preserve local genotype integrity.

Currently, invasive weed management and maintenance is underway. This will continue through the five-year mitigation period in order to ensure successful restoration of the impacted areas. This project will have lasting benefits to the native plant and wildlife community as well as the aesthetic value of this protected open space.

Storke Wetlands is part of the UCSB Campus and the restoration activities are being conducted by the University's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER).

Pat Saley, the facilitator of the Goleta Slough Management Committee says:

*"The committee has supported relocating sewer lines out of wetlands since our inception over 20 years ago. This project is a win-win for two reasons. First, access and maintenance of the sewer lines will be much easier once they are relocated outside the wetland. Second, the habitat will also benefit by eliminating sewer line maintenance work in the wetland."*

### Restoration area immediately after construction



### Restoration planting in progress



### One of fifteen native coast live oaks planted

