

PRESS RELEASE

Date: February 22, 2024

For Immediate Release

Subject: Reported Sewage Spill Stopped at Goleta

Contact: Brian McCarthy

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, a sewage spill from a pipeline running through the southwest corner of the Santa Barbara Airport at the terminus of runway 33 adjacent to Tecolotito Creek was discovered. Goleta West Sanitary District (“GWSD”) immediately mobilized to stop the spill within half an hour of discovery. GWSD notified all relevant parties, including the California Office of Emergency Services and the Santa Barbara County Health Department of the spill.

The spill is under investigation, including the duration and volume of wastewater released during this incident, and is believed to be significant. GWSD is working closely with various agencies to ensure public and environmental health and safety are protected while diligent response efforts are underway, including monitoring water quality in the affected area.

This week’s closure of the Santa Barbara Airport due to stormwater flooding is not believed to be related to this spill, and airport operations will not be affected by cleanup activities. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department has posted temporary closure signs at Goleta Beach.

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