

PRESS RELEASE

Date: February 23, 2024

For Immediate Release

Subject: Update on Volume of Reported Sewage Spill at Goleta

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

The spill is under investigation. The present estimate of the volume of the spill is now believed to have been approximately 1,025,000 gallons based on current data and available information. GWSD, with the assistance of other local agencies, was able to recover and prevent discharge of approximately 75,000 gallons into the Goleta Slough. GWSD updated authorities once these new estimates were able to be determined and confirmed.

GWSD is continuing to work 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.

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.