



As Thanksgiving Approaches Don't Let "FOG" Put a Damper on Your Special Plans



Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG) are one of the major causes of sewer back-ups and overflows. Properly disposing of FOG will help you save money on costly maintenance to your own private sewer line and help to protect the environment.

Every year Goleta West reaches out to customers to explain the benefits to keeping fats, oils and greases out of residential and commercial pipes and the community's waste stream. Fats, oils and greases are a by-product of cooking, and are found in such things as: meat fats, cooking oil, lard, shortening, butter and margarine. When grease is washed down the drain, it sticks to the inside of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets.) Over time, it builds up and can 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. But the results of a grease-blocked sewer pipe can be sewage overflows in your home or neighborhood resulting in possible exposure to disease causing bacteria and viruses or increased maintenance costs at GWSD.

How to dispose of your FOG:

1. Pour FOG into a covered disposable container—such as glass, plastic or a sturdy plastic bag. Store it in the freezer and then put it in the trash after it has hardened.
2. Use paper towels to wipe greasy dishes before washing.
3. Put the paper towels in the trash.
4. Use sink strainers to catch food waste.
5. Put food scraps in a compost bin or in the trash.
6. FOG waste should only be put in the trash.



For more information on GWSD's Fats, Oils, and Greases Program: visit our website at: www.goletawest.org/environmental-program

GWSD is Committed to Our Community

Throughout the year GWSD is involved in a variety of community events geared towards educating our customers about what the District does and how you can help protect the environment.



PEP Touch -a- Truck

GWSD Enjoys Participating Annually in Our Local Community Events

- Lemon Festival
- PEP's Touch-a-Truck
- IV Recreation & Parks District "Hallo-Clean" and Adopt - a - Block



Lemon Festival

Meet Ken Spencer – Utility Worker IV

Ken Spencer is a Utility Worker IV at the District. Ken is responsible for operating and maintaining all District facilities and equipment including hydrocleaning the sewerlines with the District's Vactor Truck and performing closed-circuit television inspections of the pipes. He also conducts inspections for new construction in the District to ensure compliance with District, State, and other regulations.

Ken has been with the District since 1989 and was the recipient of the California Water Pollution Control Association's coveted Tri-Counties Collection System Operator of the Year for 1991.



Goleta West Sanitary District Newsletter

Fall 2015

GOLETA
WEST
SANITARY DISTRICT

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Visit our Website!

www.GoletaWest.org

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Be Prepared for Potential El Niño Storms

National weather forecasts are calling for one of the most active and intense El Niño events in recent history. Heavy rains could tax storm water and waste water systems. There are many things that you can do to “weather” the storms and reduce the potential for harmful substances getting into storm water and polluting our creeks, beaches, and ocean.

GWSD has been taking extra precautions to ensure the safe and uninterrupted operations of our facilities this winter. Here are some precautions you can take in advance of the impending El Niño storms to stay dry and protect the environment.

1. Clean out rain gutters and make sure they flow properly. Rain gutters should release into your yard. District Ordinance No. 60, Article III, Section 3.03 specifically prohibits rainwater, stormwater, groundwater or yard drainage to be directly or indirectly connected to any sewer.
2. Remove any hazardous waste that may be unsheltered on your property. Check to make sure fertilizers, paint, pesticides, etc. are properly stored or disposed of (visit www.lessismore.org to learn more about disposing of hazardous materials) so no waste will wash away into the storm water system.
3. Clear your curbs and street gutters of storm debris (such as tree limbs) so our street sweeper can continue to sweep your streets following a storm event.
4. If your property has issues with flooding stock up in advance with sandbags.
5. While you are at it, check your roof, windows, and doors for leaks so you can stay dry this winter. Also, consider revisiting or creating your own emergency preparedness plan (go to www.redcross.org/prepare for more information).

If you have any questions about potential impacts of the El Niño storms on the public sewer system or your private sewer, please call the District office at (805) 968-2617.



District Finances in Order

As required by law, an annual independent audit of the District’s financial statements was completed this month. The District’s financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 were audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. A clean “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.

Helping Keep Our Creeks, Beaches, and Wetlands Pollutant Free

Since 1964, Goleta West Sanitary District has been providing street sweeping services to its customers. The District was the first South Coast agency to implement a street sweeping program to remove trash and pollutants from storm water runoff that flows into our creeks, wetlands, ocean and beaches. Unlike many government agencies, we own and operate our street sweeper, making this service reliable and flexible.

Remember to move your cars off the street on your street sweeping day so you can help us keep our creeks, beaches, and wetlands pollutant free.

For more information on your street sweeping schedule visit our website at: www.goletawest.org/customer-information/street-sweeping/

