



**Providing quality service in wastewater collection and environmental protection for more than 50 years.**



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*Dear Customer,*

*As you may know, we are part of a larger wastewater system and by understanding how this all works we can all be the best stewards of our environment and our infrastructure. Our last two newsletters explained how our system works and what we do to keep our system running for the people and businesses of western Goleta and Isla Vista. In this issue we focus on what happens to your wastewater once it reaches the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

*Speaking of being good stewards, as the holiday season approaches, we always like to remind you that putting your fats, oils, and greases (FOG) down your sink can cause sewer spills that threaten public health and safety and costly plumbing repairs to your private building sewer. When doing your dishes after a nice family holiday celebration, please remember to dispose of FOG in the trash, NOT down the drain. Please visit our website for more information on FOG.*

*In other news, we now have a new, more efficient street sweeper that has helped improve our street sweeping program. By the end of this year we will have swept over 3000 miles of streets throughout the district and removed over 200 tons of debris from your streets. That's 400,000 pounds of pollutants that we kept out of our creeks and ocean. That's just for one year!*

*From all of us at GWSD have a wonderful holiday season!*

Sincerely,  


**Mark Nation**  
General Manager/Superintendent  
Goleta West Sanitary District

## Community Events

We are proud to have participated in PEP's 3rd Annual Touch-a-Truck event.



Our New Street Sweeper at Touch a Truck

## Up Coming Events

### Goleta Sanitary District Treatment Plant OPEN HOUSE

The public is welcome to attend the Goleta Sanitary District Open house being held on Saturday Oct. 19, 2013 at the treatment plant located at One Moffett Place (across from the airport) from 11am till 3pm.

### I.V. Halloween Street Clean up HalloClean 2013

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3: 11am-1pm Saturday Costume Contest: Wear your costume and win cool stuff Sunday: Free HalloClean Tank-tops Contact info: 805-968-2017 cleaniv@ivparks.org

# Goleta West Sanitary District Newsletter

Fall 2013

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## Waste Water Treatment 101

### Overview

Goleta West Sanitary District provides wastewater collection and treatment to the residents and businesses in the Western Goleta Valley, Isla Vista and through a contractual agreement to the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District (EMID).

The District operates a collection system that includes underground sewer lines and pump stations, which safely transports wastewater to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, located across from the airport.



Secondary Treatment Tank

### Where It Goes

When you wash your dishes or flush the toilet, wastewater is transported from your house or business through a system that includes 62 miles of underground pipes and 2 pump stations that eventually all connect together bringing approximately 1.6 million gallons of wastewater to the District's headquarters each day. Once at the District's headquarters, your wastewater is pumped to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## The Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by the Goleta Sanitary District, processes all the wastewater collected from residents and businesses in the entire Goleta Valley immediately west of and adjacent to the City of Santa Barbara, the entire City of Goleta, the Santa Barbara Airport, and UCSB.

The treatment plant currently processes about 5 million gallons a day of wastewater and is designed to treat up to 9 million gallons a day of wastewater. Each of the contractual plant users (Goleta West Sanitary District, UCSB, City of Santa Barbara Airport and Santa Barbara County) own exclusive capacity rights to the treatment plant. GWSD customers own 40.78% capacity in the treatment plant. The treatment plant is financially supported by all the users of the facility. You pay into its construction, operations, and maintenance within your existing fees and property taxes.

## Treatment Plant Upgrade - Project Completed

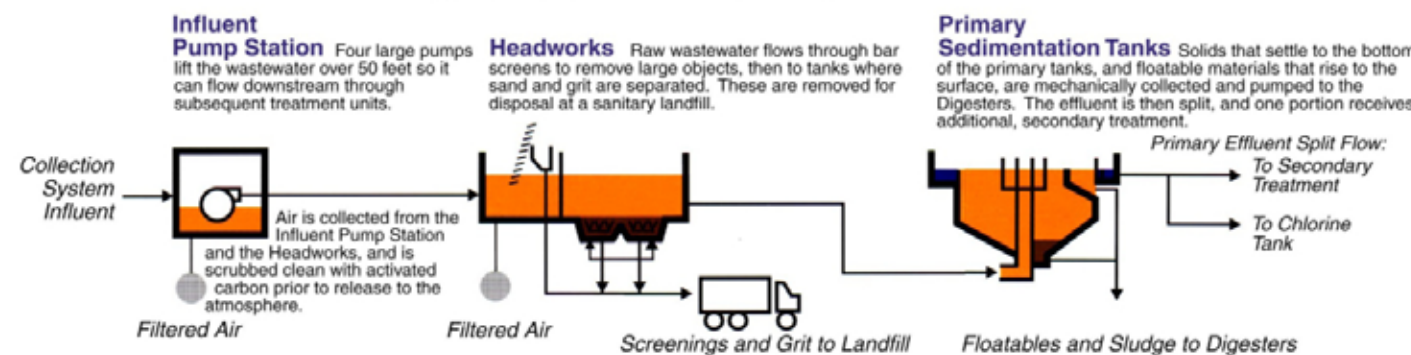
Prior to the recent plant upgrade project, the plant used a blended secondary treatment process. This process blended primary and secondary treated water, then chlorine was added to disinfect it and kill any remaining bacteria. The chlorinated blended wastewater was then dechlorinated prior to discharge to the ocean to protect ocean life. This treatment process served the community well and maintained the environment in a clean and healthful condition for many years.

### How It Works - Your Wastewater Goes Through Four Stages Of Treatment

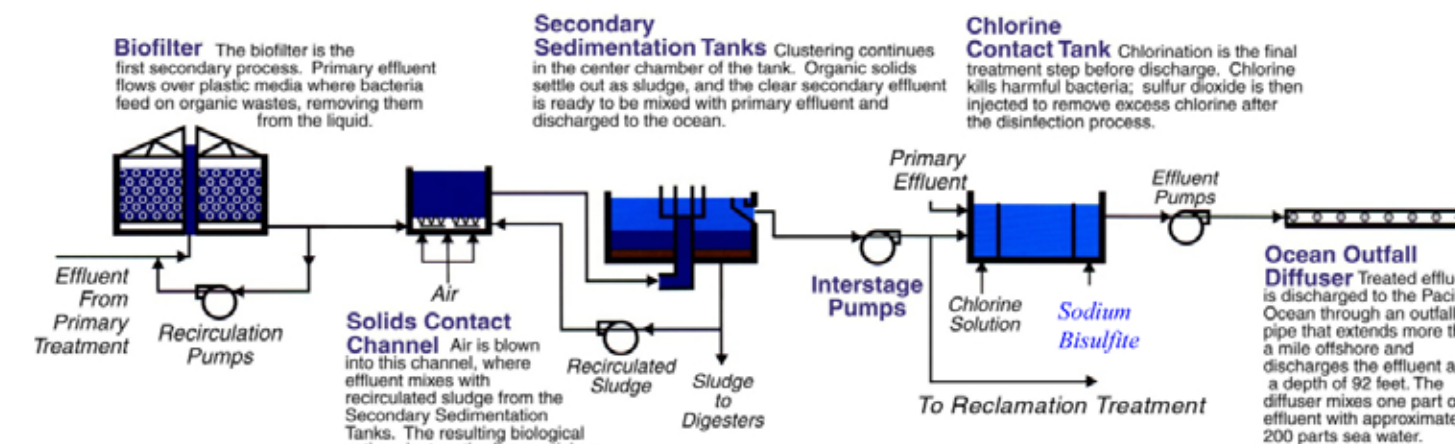
1. Preliminary Treatment - The treatment process begins with mechanical bar screens which remove dirt, grit and inorganic objects (like toys, cell phones and tools).
2. Primary Treatment - The primary treatment process removes about 60% of the organic solids from the wastewater; mainly through the use of three settling tanks.
3. Secondary Treatment - The secondary treatment process is a multi-stage biological process that uses helpful bacteria to remove the majority of the remaining organic solids. Treatment occurs as the primary treated wastewater flows through trickling filters, aeration basins and settling tanks.
4. Chlorination and Discharge - Chlorine, in the form of concentrated bleach, is added to the wastewater to disinfect it and kill any remaining bacteria. At this point the wastewater is visibly clear then dechlorinated to protect ocean life and discharged a mile off shore through a 36 inch diameter pipeline that runs adjacent to Goleta pier.

### Primary Treatment

**Collection System:** Wastewater is collected from homes and businesses, and flows by gravity or is pumped to the treatment plant through a network of sewers.



### Secondary Treatment



The treatment plant now provides full secondary treatment, meaning the wastewater is no longer blended. All wastewater treated at the plant now goes through the entire full secondary process resulting in cleaner water being discharged to the ocean. This is good for the ocean, the Goleta Slough, local beaches, and our community.

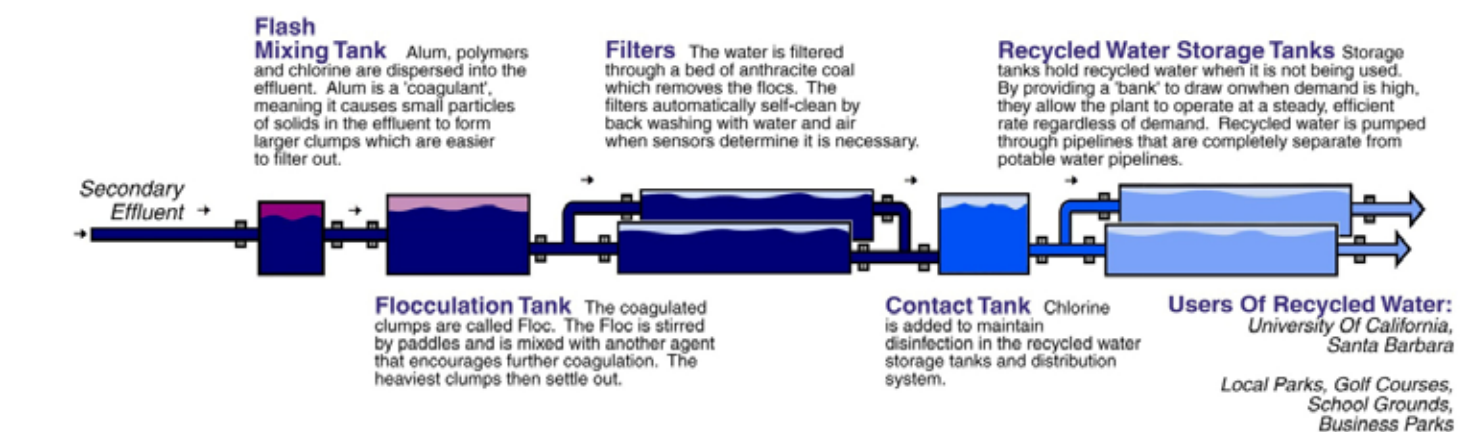
Construction of the mandated Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, which began in May of 2011, is now complete. GWSD's 40.78% share of the costs for the project totaled over \$16 million. As a result of prudent fiscal planning, GWSD was able to fully fund its portion of the project with reserve funds set aside for this purpose.

### How It Works (cont.) - The Plant Utilizes Treatment Byproducts For Reuse

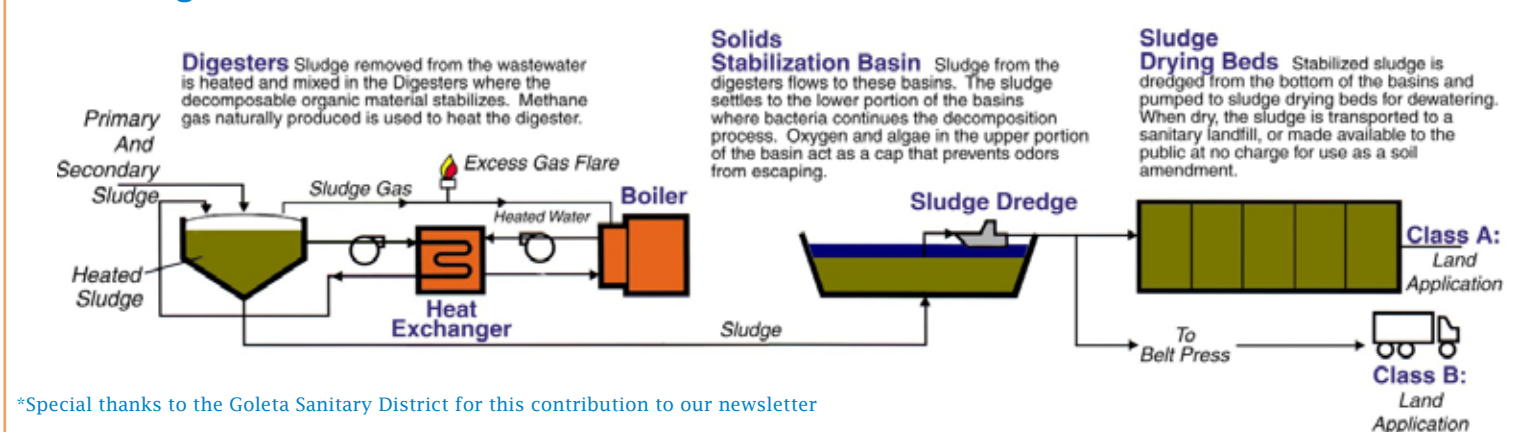
1. Water Recycling - Tertiary Treatment of up to 3 million gallons a day of the effluent creates super-clean recycled water that meets stringent quality requirements. Recycled water is produced by treating secondary effluent to the tertiary level. Secondary treated water is mixed with special chemicals that cause the tiny amount of remaining particles to clump together. Filtration with carbon removes these clumps, and chlorine is added for disinfection. Recycled water is used throughout the community for landscape irrigation at golf courses, parks, and schools.
2. Biosolids Treatment - The solids removed from wastewater are treated so they can be safely reused as a soil amendment.

The solids from the wastewater treatment process decompose by treating them in a heated anaerobic digester for about 40 days. A byproduct of the decomposition process is methane gas which is used to heat the digesters. The decomposed biosolids are then allowed to stabilize in settling basins. Solids removed from the basins are dried in several stages. The end product has a dark, earthy color, that is tested before is applied to the land as a soil amendment.

### Reclamation Treatment



### Sludge Treatment



\*Special thanks to the Goleta Sanitary District for this contribution to our newsletter