

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE GOLETA WEST SANITARY DISTRICT  
UCSB CAMPUS, PARKING LOT 32, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
February 2, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Bearman, M.D.

Craig Geyer

Dr. David C. Lewis

Larry D. Meyer

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT**

Gary L. McFarland

**STAFF PRESENT**

Diane P. Powers, Secretary; Mr. Mark Nation, General Manager/Superintendent; Mr. Steven A. Amerikaner, General Counsel

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Alexandra M. Barnhill, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck; Mr. George W. Emerson and Mr. John R. Fox, Directors, Goleta Sanitary District; Ms. Kathy Johnson and Ms. Kathleen Werner; Mr. Bert Bertrando, Director, Goleta Water District; Mr. William R. Gilbert; Mr. Roger Lagerquist and Mr. Ken Warfield, Isla Vista Association; Dan Singer, City of Goleta

**ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

There was no change to the order of the agenda.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input presented at this time.

**BUSINESS**

1) **DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY OF GOLETA DETACHMENT PROPOSAL**

A letter prepared by Counsel and dated February 3, 2009 to the City of Goleta was distributed to the Board. Mr. Steven A. Amerikaner reported that the Board appointed Ad-Hoc Committee had met on two occasions and that the letter is a result of those meetings. Director Bearman asked if the questions posed by the Board at the January 27, 2009 Special Board Meeting had been addressed. Mr. Amerikaner replied to the affirmative. Counsel requested that the Board review the letter and authorize signature and delivery to the City of Goleta for their City Council Meeting on February 3, 2009. Mr. Amerikaner then reviewed portions of the letter with the Board.

Mr. Ken Warfield commented that he is angry that the District is sitting on so much money since that motivated the City of Goleta Detachment Proposal. Director Bearman replied that an explanation is needed as to where the funds are being directed and that the District may want to revisit merger with the Goleta Sanitary District.

President Lewis remarked that the District has determined it is better to remain as it is rather than building its own treatment plant.

Mr. Bert Bertrando advised the Board that the 20 million dollars set aside for the Goleta Sanitary District plant upgrade should somehow be protected since the upgrade is State mandated. He wanted to know if the funds could be placed in a trust fund. Mr. Amerikaner replied that additional research is required and that he will check into ways to preserve the District's reserve funds. Mr. Bertrando queried that if the City of Goleta is interested in running a sewer service then why not also detach the area east of Los Carneros from Goleta Sanitary District. Director Meyer said that he is not sure the City of Goleta knew what they were buying into. He believes that they are buying into a negative cash deal since they will be required to give some monies to the County.

Director Geyer stated that he is very pleased with the letter prepared by Counsel.

Director Bearman said that the detachment proposal is basically a tax increase masquerading as a fee increase. He went on to say that the move to full secondary treatment is just the first step and that tertiary treatment is eventually to follow. Director Bearman added that merger with the Goleta Sanitary District would help to furnish funds for this purpose. He recognized that the City of Goleta is making this issue more of a mess and wanted to know where the complete LAFCO report is. Director Geyer pointed out that additional monies will need to be available to finance the higher cost of operating the upgraded treatment plant.

Director Bearman encouraged the Board to appear at the City of Goleta Council Meeting with questions aimed at how this detachment proposal is good for the people of the Goleta Valley. Director Meyer mentioned that this proposal is not a winning proposition for the City. Director Geyer acknowledged that the City of Goleta wants the District's property tax revenue and that they should have contacted the District first prior to preparing the Detachment Proposal. Director Meyer observed that if the City is so desperate for funds then they should seriously think about a utility tax.

(09-02-12)

Upon a motion by Director Geyer, seconded by Director Bearman the Board unanimously approved the January 3, 2009 letter to the City of Goleta as written.

Mr. John R. Fox informed the Board that the Goleta Sanitary District will have a representative at the February 3, 2009 City of Goleta Council Meeting. He went on to say that he understands that the District's property tax should be used for wastewater purposes and street sweeping and should not be used to bail out the City of Goleta.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

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Diane P. Powers, Secretary

**APPROVED**

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Dr. David C. Lewis, President