



# East Storke Wetland Restoration Update

## Significant Progress Made

The Storke Wetland, which was historically a tidal portion of the Goleta Slough Estuary, is valuable habitat supporting an extensive salt marsh as well as freshwater and transitional upland habitat. Last year's replacement of the old Mesa Road pipeline, which was located just south of Mesa Road in the East Storke Wetlands, has allowed the District to embark on an ambitious and long-planned habitat restoration project.

Since pipeline maintenance activities are no longer necessary in the wetland area, restoration of impacted areas of the wetland; including abandonment/removal of the access road and infrastructure, as well as re-establishment of native vegetation and invasive weed management, has been underway for over a year.

This project will have lasting benefits to the native plant and wildlife community as well as the aesthetic value of this protected open space. Storke Wetlands is part of the UCSB Campus and the restoration activities are being conducted by the University's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER).

According to CCBER's Director of Ecosystem Management Lisa Stratton, restoration efforts have been "very successful," with native plant cover exceeding 90%. Due to extreme drought conditions, CCBER was able to do extensive work on invasive weed management so that as normal rains come, conditions will favor native wetland species.

In addition to the native and non-native species work, 15 oak trees were planted, irrigated, and monitored. These oaks replaced 5 Italian Stone Pine trees that were removed from Mesa Road as part of the pipeline project.

For more information visit [www.GoletaWest.org](http://www.GoletaWest.org) or [www.ccber.ucsb.edu](http://www.ccber.ucsb.edu).

## Street Sweeping

Moving your cars on street sweeping day helps 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, and other items such as basketball hoops 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/customerinformation/street-sweeping/](http://www.goletawest.org/customerinformation/street-sweeping/)



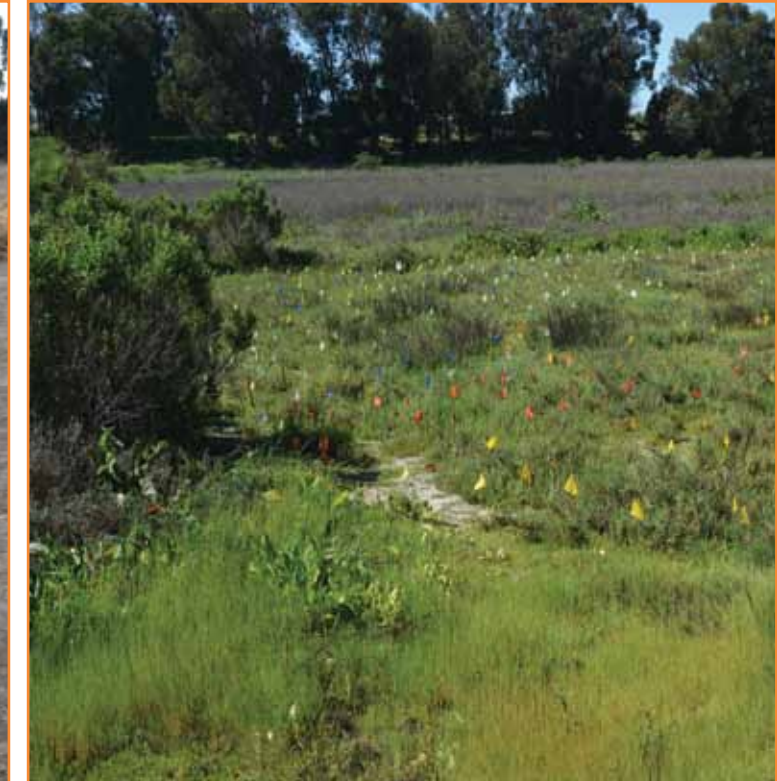
## Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Goleta West Sanitary District



GWSD again received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.



November 2014



April 2016

Photos Courtesy of the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration



# Goleta West Sanitary District Newsletter

Spring 2016

GOLETA  
WEST  
SANITARY DISTRICT

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## Visit our Website!

[www.GoletaWest.org](http://www.GoletaWest.org)

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## A Cleaner Environment through Community Partnerships

### One Ton of Success for Clean Creeks

Goleta West Sanitary District provides key funding for the Environmental Defense Center and Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council's Western Goleta Creeks Clean-Up Project.

Over this past summer and fall, teams of community volunteers ventured down into Goleta's urban creeks in an effort to remove the vast amount of accumulated trash.

Led by the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council, with primary funding from Goleta West Sanitary District (GWSD), teams of volunteers have been collecting trash from Goleta's urban creeks. These volunteers were able to successfully remove over one ton of trash from ten local creeks.

"It's great to see volunteers coming out to support this effort to remove plastic garbage and litter from the creeks" said Rick Frickmann from the Creeks Council, who helped orchestrate the Western Goleta Creeks Clean-up Program. "It shows that our community really pulls together to protect Goleta's streams and sends a message that watersheds are important resources to be valued and restored."

By cleaning trash from the creeks before the winter rains, the groups ensured that trash was eliminated before it reached our local beaches and pollutes the water, protecting the health and well-being of beachgoers and marine life.

"Despite the fact that creeks flow through many of our own backyards, it's not often that people have a chance to walk their creeks, view the conditions, and actually get to do something about it. With Urban Creeks Council, EDC and our partner organizations putting on these volunteer events, we can really help fight pollution at its source," added Brian Trautwein of EDC.

"We are very proud of the great work our community does to benefit the environment. Whenever there's an opportunity to support efforts - consistent with our mission - we look for ways we can help," stated GWSD Board President Craig Geyer.

The Urban Creeks Council and Environmental Defense Center are already beginning planning for the 2016 Goleta Creek Clean-Up Program. Visit [www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org) or [www.SB-UrbanCreeks.org](http://www.SB-UrbanCreeks.org) to learn more about the program and ways to volunteer.

*"There's a limit to what we can do with our street sweeping program. That's why our Board of Directors has been committed to finding other ways we can get at the problem of trash in our creeks before it gets to our beaches and into the ocean."*

Mark Nation,  
General Manager  
Goleta West  
Sanitary District

Trash Removed: 2,647 lbs.  
Volunteer Hours: 172 hrs.

Community Partners: Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council, Goleta West Sanitary District, UCSB Coastal Fund, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Union Bank, Clif Bar Family Foundation, Citrix Online, Bacara Resort, Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District, Braggs Live Food Product



Creeks Cleaned:  
Devereux, Phelps, Bell, Tecolote,  
Carneros, Glen Annie



Photos Courtesy of the Environmental Defense Center