

MARCH 2009



INFORMATION
ABOUT YOUR WATER

WATER NEWS

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

Participate With Us

Goleta Water District's Board and Staff invite you to learn more about our water and participate with us as we manage our precious water supply.

**Your Are Invited
To a
Public Meeting
On the New
Groundwater
Management
Plan**

**Learn About the Plan
Have Your
Questions Answered
Provide Your Input**

**Wednesday,
March 11, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

**Goleta Union
School District
401 North Fairview Ave.**

**Across F rom
Goleta Public Library**

**The District's website is
regularly updated with
new information.**

**Check it out at
www.goletawater.com**



Changes to Help You Participate

Our job at the District is to provide customers with an adequate supply of quality water at a reasonable cost. We are making changes that will make it easier for you to learn more about your water and easier to make inputs into decisions that affect the community:

Committee meetings have been made more consistent and easy to follow, with all meetings being held either at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. Committee meetings are now posted on the website.

A new website feature will allow you to subscribe to information and have updates automatically sent to you.

All important projects, like the Groundwater Management Plan described on the following page, will be fully documented on the website.

Public meetings, like the one announced on this page, will be conducted about important water-related issues covered by the District.



District Begins Groundwater Plan

Historically, the Goleta Groundwater Basin was a primary source of supply. However, this original source became stressed by the 1980s. Since the early 1990s, the District has met water demand almost solely through use of water from Lake Cachuma, supplemented by State Water Project supplies and recycled water.

Today, the District is initiating preparation of a Groundwater Management Plan that will allow the District to optimize groundwater use while providing important benefits:

- Protect and maintain groundwater supplies and quality.
- Coordinate cooperative use of the basin with the La Cumbre Mutual Water Company.
- Insure the District continues to conform to all legal requirements.
- Qualify the District for federal and state grant funding for groundwater improvements.

Groundwater Management Plan

Public Invited to Learn More and Provide Input

Goleta Water District maintains a variety of water supplies, the principal one being Lake Cachuma. Less well known, but very important, is the groundwater basin below us.

Your Water District is developing a three-dimensional mathematical model of the groundwater basin to enhance our ability to understand this complex geological formation and the water in it. We are working with the La Cumbre Mutual Water Company—which serves Hope Ranch and much of Hope Ranch Annex—to develop a Groundwater Management Plan for this basin we share. Our customers are invited to learn more and provide input.

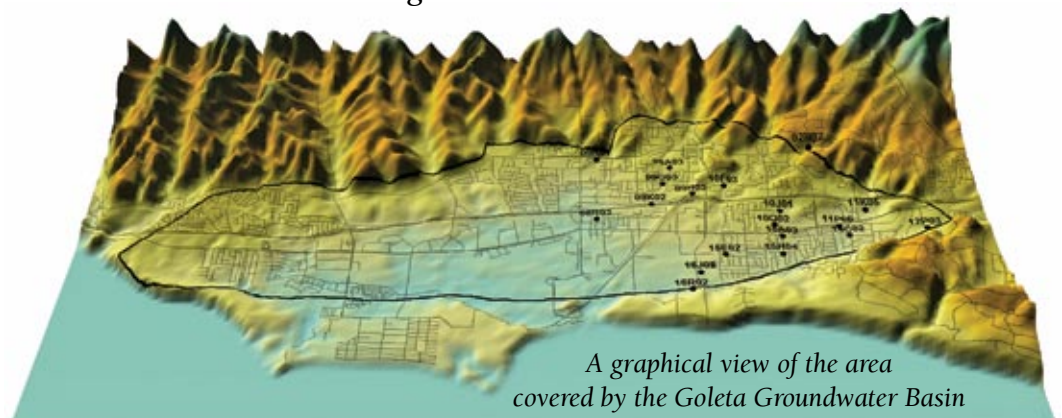
More About Goleta's Groundwater

The SAFE Ordinance requires the District to maintain and manage its groundwater supply as a drought buffer. With strict guidelines, the SAFE Ordinance also allows the District to use groundwater supplies to meet water shortage emergencies, help maintain water quality goals and address other water needs.

A legal ruling commonly referred to as the Wright Judgment also defines many aspects of groundwater use and management in the Goleta Groundwater Basin, including which parties can use groundwater and how much they can use. The Wright Judgment requires the Goleta Water District to maintain certain groundwater levels and avoid overpumping, which the District has achieved.

Actions to maintain groundwater levels in the basin. The District also injects spill-water from Lake Cachuma into the groundwater basin during periods when the lake is full and spilling. The District has essentially not used groundwater since the early 1990s, further adding to its drought buffer.

Our new Groundwater Management Plan will provide a blueprint for sustainable and reliable long-term use of the basin.



A graphical view of the area covered by the Goleta Groundwater Basin

Effectively Managing Goleta's Water Supplies

Goleta Valley's climate is semi-arid. Periods of drought alternate with periods of moderate rainfall and flood. No single source of water can be counted on to meet customer water needs in this dry environment. Therefore, the District has developed multiple sources so that one or more will always be available to meet community needs.

Long-Range Plans Balance Supply and Demand

To manage our water supply, the District has developed a variety of planning tools, including the Groundwater Management Plan. Others include:

Urban Water Management Plan. Every five years, the District prepares this comprehensive water supply assessment. We will soon begin work on the 2010 Plan.

Water Shortage Contingency Plan. This plan is currently being developed to define how the District will respond to a serious drought or water shortage and the need for intensive conservation. It will be reviewed publicly this spring.

Conservation Outreach. The District offers a number of conservation tools for customers, including free water conservation checkups (we come out to help you look for leaks and inefficiencies in your indoor and outdoor water systems), free rain sensors for automatic sprinkler systems and information on sustainable landscaping. Check also with the Goleta West Sanitary District and Goleta Sanitary District for rebates on water-efficient appliances.

UCSB Relations Committee. One matter this committee will address is the University's Long-Range Development Plan and its impact on water supply. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings held at 10:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Facility Master Plans. A series of detailed engineering plans that define what facilities will be needed to acquire, treat, store and distribute water.



Water Quality Actions After the Zaca Fire

Ash and debris from the 2007 Zaca fire began entering Lake Cachuma in early 2008, increasing algae growth. While not harmful to health, the algae may cause changes in water taste and odor.

In addition, organic carbon in the ash can combine with chlorine disinfectant used in water treatment, forming substances called Trihalomethanes (THM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA). These have been linked to possible adverse health effects following long-term exposure above regulatory levels.

The District is taking intensive actions, including additional water treatment and blending with well water to consistently meet regulatory health standards.

The wells allow air bubbles into the groundwater, making tap water seem cloudy until the bubbles release their air and settle out. Also, well water has a higher natural mineral content, which has no adverse health impacts but may leave streaks and spots. For more information about water quality, contact Dale Armstrong at 879-4678 or watch the District's website at www.goletawater.com.

Please Join Us at These Water Conservation and Environmental Events

Home Improvement Expo — March 7 & 8

District staff will answer questions and provide information about sustainable landscaping and water conservation. Admission \$6 (children under 12 free). Free parking.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Earl Warren Showgrounds.

South Coast Earth Day Festival — April 19

Water conservation materials available in conjunction with the S.B. County Water Agency display. Featuring children's area, live music and entertainment, solar-powered stage, free bicycle check-ups and more. Plus, ride free on MTD.

10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Alameda Park, Santa Barbara.

Green Gardening Day at La Sumida Nursery — March 7

Goleta Water District joins Supervisor Janet Wolf in presenting this exciting sustainable landscaping event. Top 10 Plants for S.B. Gardens (and wise watering tips) with the "Garden Wise Guys" Owen Dell and Billy Goodnick at noon. Compost Magic: the New How-To at 1 p.m. Raffles and refreshments. Expert Advice on Green Gardening. Demonstrations and info. from the Goleta Water District and other gardening programs.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at La Sumida Nursery, 165 S. Patterson Ave.

Goleta Earth Day — April 11

Learn the basics of water conservation in a kid-friendly environment. The festival includes displays, children's games, activities, entertainment and refreshments.

11:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m., Stow Grove Park, 580 N. La Patera Ln., Goleta.



Your Water District Board of Directors at a recent board meeting: Jack Cunningham, Bill Rosen, Bert Bertrando, Lauren Hanson and Larry Mills.



You Are Invited to a Public Meeting on the Groundwater Plan
Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. (see page 1 for details)

Printed on recycled paper. Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.



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GOLETA WATER DISTRICT



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