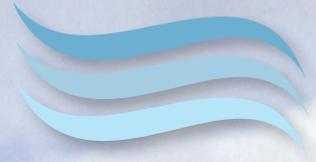


# Water Features

Goleta Water District News – Spring 2023



## A Full Lake Cachuma

### Improved Water Supply Outlook for the Goleta Valley

A series of intense winter storms raised lake levels from 31% to full for the first time since 2011. The improved regional water supply outlook means the District no longer needs to consider a water shortage emergency.



**Sustainability Plan Progress Report -  
Ten Year Anniversary**



# A Full Lake Cachuma



This year's winter rains have significantly altered the District's water supply outlook, with Lake Cachuma full for the first time since 2011. It remains to be seen if the tremendous rainfall across California will be enough to end the statewide drought, but locally, improved water supply conditions have eliminated the need to consider declaring a water shortage emergency in the Goleta Valley. A full Lake Cachuma combined with the District's diverse water supply portfolio of groundwater, state water and recycled water means the Goleta Valley is well positioned for whatever the next few years bring.

Even with the significant rainfall this year, we know that using water wisely remains important given the history of dry conditions and cyclical drought. To that end, this is why the District is already preparing for a dry day by shifting to recharging the Goleta Groundwater Basin (see page 6). By resting the basin and actively injecting treated surface water when it is available, this critical drought buffer will remain available in the future.

In the Goleta Valley, using water wisely remains a way of life. Nearly half of the District's customers use an average of 56 gallons per person per day, making them among the most efficient water users in California. Over the last decade, customers have done a phenomenal job reducing water use (see page 5 of this newsletter for more detail). More than 940 customers have taken advantage of the District's Smart Landscape Rebate Program to replace high water use landscapes with water wise alternatives, leading to permanent water savings that provide lasting benefits for years.

Managing supplies responsibly combined with the outstanding record of customer conservation means the District will continue to be able to maintain a sustainable water system that is both reliable and efficient.

Thank you for all of your efforts to use water responsibly.

David Matson

General Manager

## California Water Waste Prohibitions

The following prohibitions remain in effect:



### Sweep Don't Spray

Potable water may not be used to wash down sidewalks and driveways.



### Landscape Irrigation

Runoff caused by irrigation is prohibited.



### Washing Cars

Vehicles must be washed using a hose with a shutoff nozzle.



### Fountains & Features

Decorative water features must use recirculated water.



### Rain On = Sprinklers Off

Outdoor irrigation is prohibited during and within 48 hours following measurable rainfall.



### Commercial and HOA Customers

Irrigating non-functional or decorative turf is prohibited.

## **Q: What is the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance?**

**A:** In 1991 voters of the Goleta Water District passed the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance, which sets forth four conditions (see below) that the District must meet in order to approve new or additional water connections. New and additional water connections are typically requested for development projects such as housing, commercial, and retail projects.



## **Q: When Does the District Anticipate That the Conditions of SAFE will Allow for New Water Allocations?**

**A:** Since the District already meets the legal obligations in the Wright Judgment and is not rationing water, two conditions remain to be met. With the recent storms, the District received 100% of its normal Cachuma supply allocation. Based on current projections, the District will most likely be able to meet its Annual Storage Commitment after the next Water Year starts in October of 2023. At that point, the Board of Directors will review water supply conditions and if the District authorizes new water allocations to be made, projects requesting new water would be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## **Q: Where Can I Find More Information on Development?**

**A:** Residents interested in learning more about a proposed development project, or interested in commenting on a project, should contact the City or the County for more information on when hearings are scheduled. These entities can provide information on the process a particular project will go through, and when meetings related to the design review and planning commission hearings for a project will occur.

# Development Information

## How is Development Approved?

Development is approved by agencies given land use authority under the State Constitution, such as the City of Goleta and the County of Santa Barbara. The District does not approve or deny projects or determine whether a project will have adverse impacts on the community. The District's role is limited to issuing Can and Will Serve letters based on existing water credits.

## Did You Know?

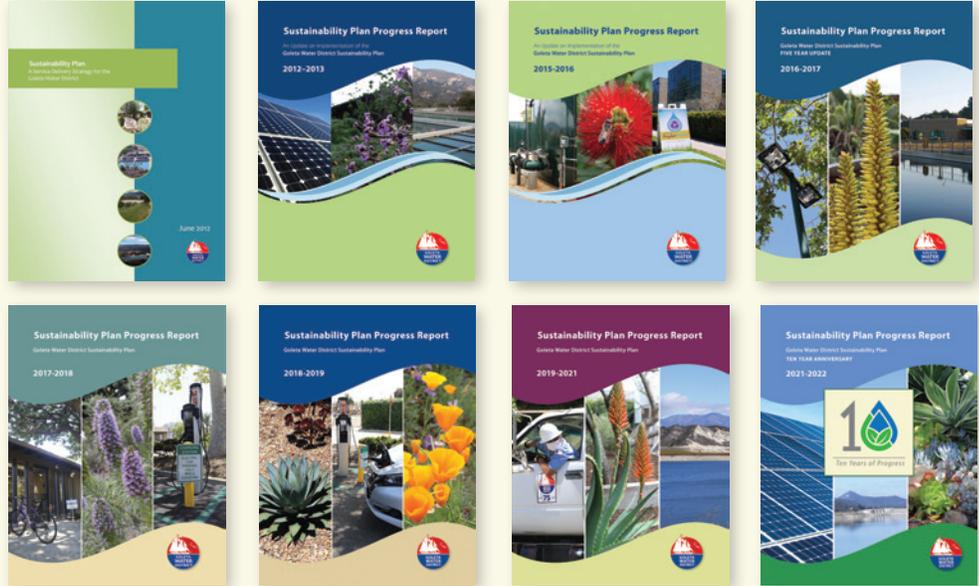
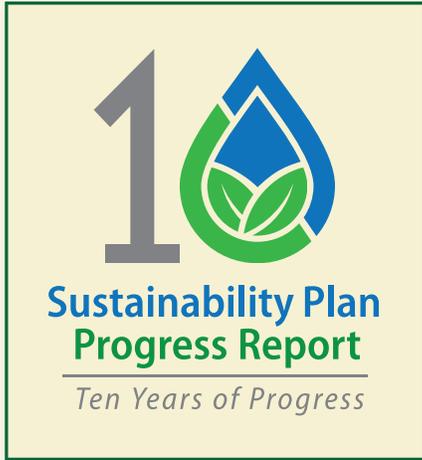
Water supply and impacts are only 1 of 18 resource categories that project applicants must address during the environmental review process.

**The District has not issued new water service connections since October 1, 2014.**

Per the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance approved by voters no new water service connections can be issued until:

1. The District is receiving 100% of its deliveries normally allowed from Lake Cachuma.
2. The District has met legal obligations in the Wright Judgment.
3. There is no water rationing.
4. The District has met its obligation to the Annual Storage Commitment to the groundwater Drought Buffer.

# Sustainability Plan –10th Anniversary!



**Goleta Water District (District) Celebrates the Ten Year Anniversary of the Sustainability Plan.** Originally adopted by the Board of Directors in June 2012, the Sustainability Plan is updated regularly through progress reports, which provide an overview of how District initiatives, activities, and operations produce outcomes that contribute economic, environmental, and social benefits, and support sustainable water service delivery. As this is the tenth year of the Sustainability Plan, the 2022 Sustainability Plan Progress Report reflects on progress made since the plan’s inception as well as over the last fiscal year.



## 2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE



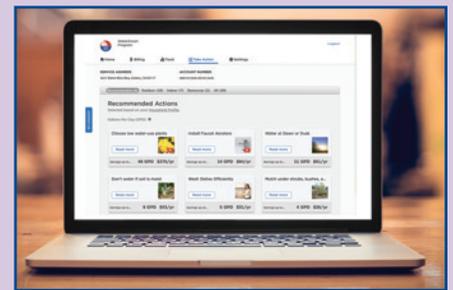
### Net Zero

A major driver of expenses over the past year has been increased energy and fuel costs. Reducing reliance on traditional non-renewable energy can protect against future energy price increases, reduce energy costs, and improve reliability.



### SCADA

This past year the District installed solar-battery backup power systems to keep the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems at the reservoirs energized during power outages.



### WaterSmart

The number of customer sign-ups for the District’s WaterSmart customer portal, implemented in January 2020, increased by over 2,400 from the previous year. To date, about 45% of the District’s customers are using this internet-based customer engagement system.

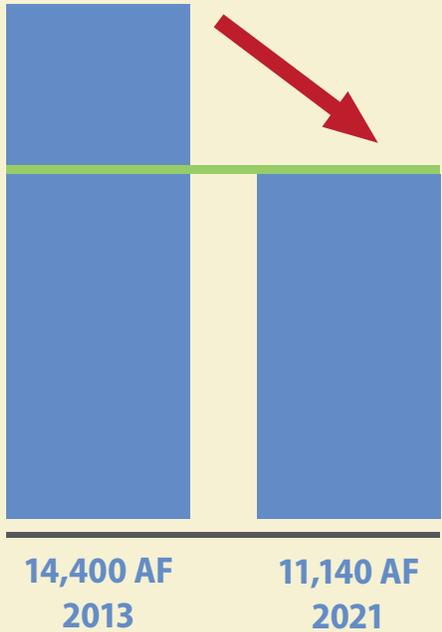
Since the plan was adopted, 63 initiatives have been successfully implemented, and an additional 23 are being developed or are underway. For the latest update and to learn more about how sustainability is built into the water service provided to customers, visit [www.GoletaWater.com/Sustainability](http://www.GoletaWater.com/Sustainability).

# 10 Years of Conservation

Since the Sustainability Plan's adoption, significant progress has been made regarding conservation.

## The Difference a Decade Makes

### Total District Water Use



Goleta Water District customers are among the most water thrifty in the California.

State Average

89

GPCD

Central Coast Average

71

GPCD



From

62

Gallons per person per day 2013 (residential)



To

56

Gallons per person per day 2022 (residential)

System-wide, customers continue to use 20% less water than during the previous drought.

50%

Half of all customers use less than 6 HCF per month!

 940 

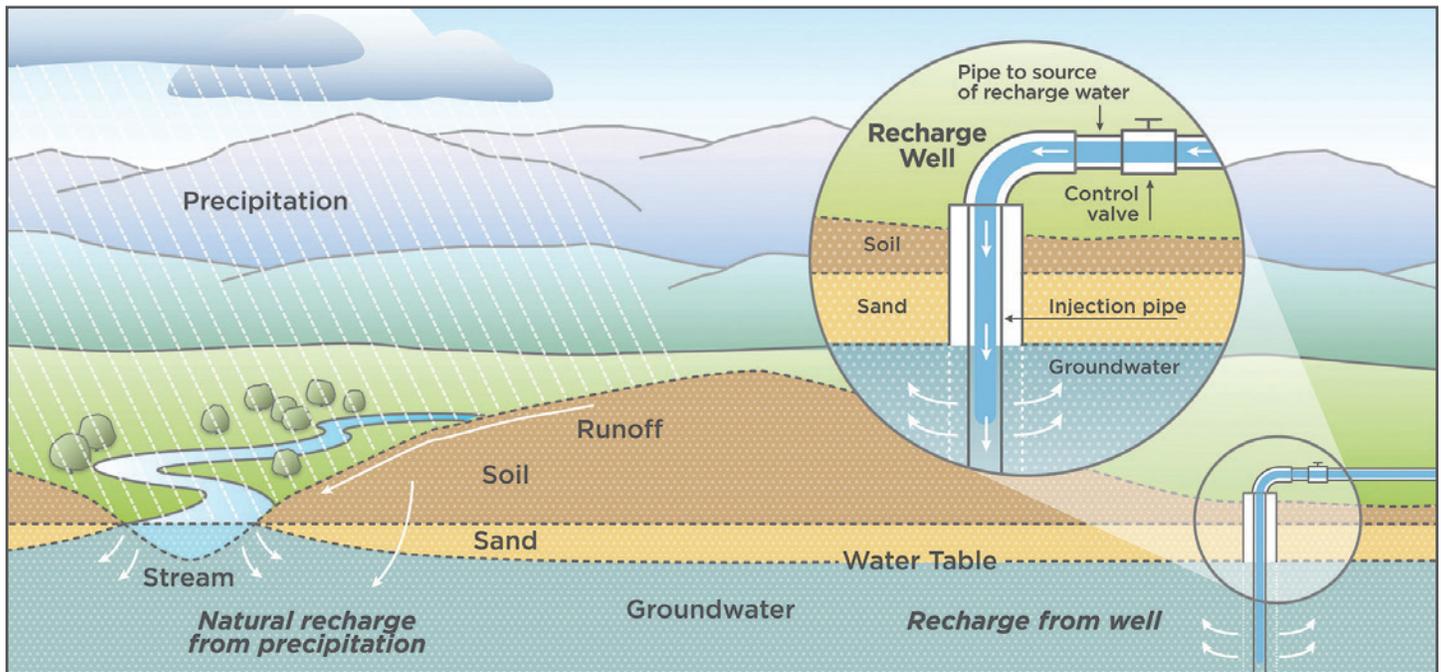
Number of Smart Landscape Rebate Program (SLRP) rebates issued to replace high water use landscapes with water wise alternatives including 771 lawns replaced with water wise plants.



Every gallon of water saved is a gallon that doesn't need to be delivered, treated, and moved through the system. Saving water not only preserves water supplies, but saves the associated energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

# Groundwater Injection Update

The Goleta Groundwater Basin was one of the first basins in the state to enhance natural recharge by injecting drinking water into its wells. The District has nine wells with a combined injection capacity of up to 2,600 Acre-feet Per Year (AFY). The District uses these wells to inject water from Lake Cachuma into the groundwater basin during wet winters when excess water supply is available, providing additional stored water for future use during dry periods. While the District seeks to maximize injection when supplies are available, water quality conditions, groundwater elevations, and the fact that water cannot be injected when the wells are in production mode mean that actual injection numbers will likely be lower.



## A Full Lake Cachuma

In January a series of large storms hit the Central Coast. Santa Barbara County was deluged by an atmospheric river that delivered historic levels of rainfall, and flooding and debris flows that resulted in evacuation orders and the closure of the 101 freeway north of Goleta and south of Santa Barbara, as well as Highway 154. During the two day storm over 13 inches of rain fell at Gibraltar Dam, 17 inches fell at the San Marcos Pass, and 4.5 inches were recorded in Goleta. This is a phenomenal level of precipitation for an area that usually averages a total of 18 inches of rain in the course of a “normal” year. As a result, Lake Cachuma rose rapidly from 31% to full for the first time since 2011. It remains to be seen if the tremendous rainfall across California will be enough to end the statewide drought, but locally the improved water supply outlook means the District will no longer need to consider a local water shortage emergency declaration.



*View of Lake Cachuma and Bradbury Dam*

# Kids Corner

## Check For and Fix Leaks

A silent toilet leak can waste 7,000 gallons or more per month, and is the most common source of indoor water waste. Testing for leaks is easy, and kids can help!



### How do I check for a toilet leak?

**Step 1:** Put one dye tablet or a few drops of food coloring into the back of the toilet tank. Do not flush.

**Step 2:** Wait ten minutes, then check the bowl. If you see color the tank has a leak.

**Step 3:** Fix the leak by replacing the toilet flapper.



For instructions on how to install a new flapper, visit: [www.GoletaWater.com/Flapper](http://www.GoletaWater.com/Flapper)

## WaterSense for Kids

Thirsty for Knowledge?

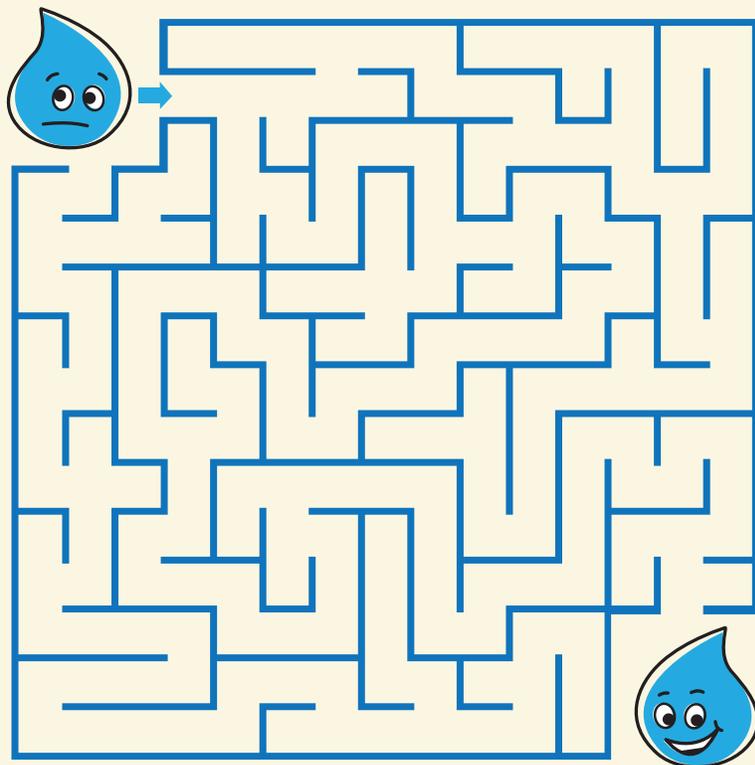
Let's Learn About Water!

Think you know everything there is to know about water? Move the water-efficiency hero Flo through water pipes and answer water-efficiency questions while avoiding water-wasting monsters. Use the information you've learned on this Web site to test your knowledge.



Visit: [www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids)

## Find your path through the water maze



The District has many educational resources for teachers, parents and kids interested in learning more about where their water comes from and how to conserve.

Visit: [www.GoletaWater.com/Conservation/Educational-Resources](http://www.GoletaWater.com/Conservation/Educational-Resources)



GOLETA WATER DISTRICT  
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Goleta, California 93110  
805/964-6761  
info@goletawater.com

## REMEMBER, YOU CAN PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

Visit our website for more information

[www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com) is a great resource  
Water-Wise Landscaping Tips and Planting  
Resources | Board Meeting Agendas and  
Minutes | Information About Rates | Water Quality  
and more...

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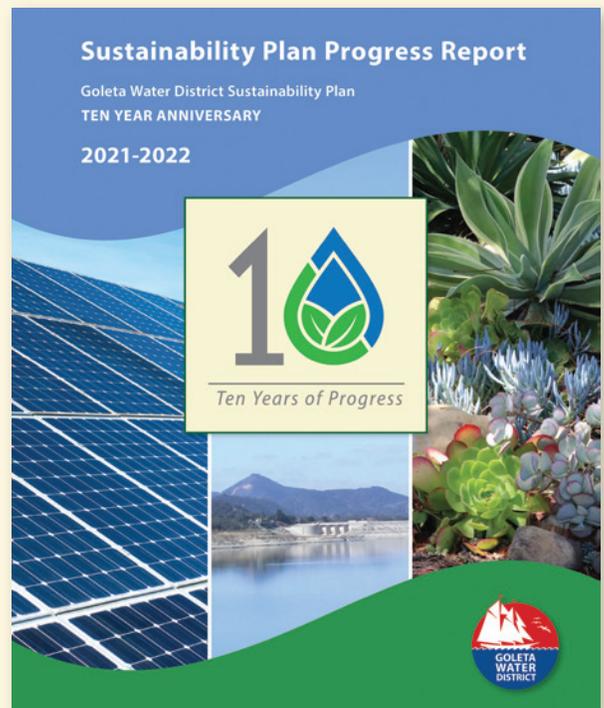


## Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)



California's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides financial assistance to low-income Californians to help manage their residential water utility costs. Qualified, low-income households can apply to receive a one-time credit (up to \$2,000) on their water bill.

For more information, dial **2-1-1** or visit  
[www.csd.ca.gov/Pages/WaterBill.aspx](http://www.csd.ca.gov/Pages/WaterBill.aspx)



The Goleta Water District celebrates ten years since the adoption of the Sustainability Plan!

For more information on the District's sustainability efforts visit  
[www.GoletaWater.com/Sustainability](http://www.GoletaWater.com/Sustainability)



QR Code

### Contact

Call us: (805) 964-6761

Office hours: 4699 Hollister Ave.  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

Send us an email:  
info@GoletaWater.com

Visit our website:  
[www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com)

The **District Board of Directors** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The public is always welcome. For more information on how to participate visit  
[www.GoletaWater.com/Agendas-and-Minutes](http://www.GoletaWater.com/Agendas-and-Minutes)