



**Goleta Water District**  
4699 Hollister Avenue  
Goleta, CA 93110-1999

## **GOLETA WATER DISTRICT SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT WATER SERVICE**

A recent California Senate Bill, No. 1069, (Senate Bill) has provided a land use approval path for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), which are smaller habitable dwellings (up to 1,200 square feet) that may be attached or detached and accessory to a primary dwelling on residentially zoned properties. The new Senate Bill does not apply to special districts such as Goleta Water District (District). However, recognizing the law and its intent, the District recently amended its Code to exempt ADUs from a separate metering requirement on legal parcels. The meter waiver applies to ADUs where the private water line would not cross property lines, the District will bill aggregate water services for both the primary use or structure and ADU, and, the District has determined that the existing meter is of sufficient size to accommodate the ADU and any fire sprinkler flow requirements (where applicable). Previously, the District required separate meters for any such ADUs, and this Code exemption removes a potential cost barrier to getting most ADUs permitted.

The following is a summary of steps for obtaining approval of water service for a new ADU:

### **Step 1 – Determine Water Availability**

Upon request of a property owner or agent with authorization, District Water Supply and Conservation (WSC) staff can review District records and provide an overview of any quantified water entitlements available for a parcel. Upon request, WSC staff can also provide a general indication as to whether the existing entitlements are adequate to allow for a new ADU. However, for some projects, the property owner may be required or choose to have their qualified engineer prepare an estimated demand for existing and proposed development for District consideration.

The District is currently in a Stage III Water Shortage Emergency. Pursuant to the SAFE Water Supplies Ordinance, the District was directed to deny applications for new water service allocations unless the project falls within one of the exceptions specified in SAFE. Absent the project falling within one of the exceptions, the District cannot allocate water to serve new or expanded demands. The ADU projects are subject to a determination of adequate water availability and the current prohibition on new or expanded service when there are not adequate pre-existing entitlements. Proposed projects or uses that do not include an increase in forecasted water use beyond existing entitlements are not defined as New Water Service and not subject to application procedures for purpose of evaluating demands. Projects that would increase demands beyond water entitlements available will be denied and may re-apply at such time as new water becomes available for allocation by the District through payment of a New Water Supply Charge.

### **Step 2 – Request Preliminary Water Service Determination**

If it is determined that a parcel has adequate water entitlements for a new ADU, the Property Owner may request a Preliminary Water Service Determination (PWSD). In addition to the determination of water availability described above, the District may require the property owner's private water system information to evaluate the adequacy of the meter and service line size. Required information may include fixture unit counts, landscape irrigation (maximum 'gallons per minute' and minimum pressure requirements), and fire sprinkler calculations where fire sprinklers exist or are required.

The District PWSD will confirm for the applicant and County or City: 1) the project description reviewed by the District, 2) whether the project has adequate water available to proceed, and 3) whether a District application for water service is required. A PWSD is generally required by local land use agencies prior to processing applications a land use permit or permit exemption. The District recommends property owners obtain a PWSD for all development projects including ADUs.

**Step 3 – Apply for Changes to Water Service or Separate Meter (Where Applicable)**

If a separate meter is requested or if District determines that changes to the existing service line or meter are required to accommodate the ADU, then a District application for water service will be required. Please see the District “Outline of Application Process for Water Service” for additional information. Note that the physical water delivery system, including shared or separate meters, does not factor in the forecasted water demand determination.

Please contact the District at 805-964-6761 with any questions or for additional information regarding ADUs or the District application process for water services.