

Water Features

Goleta Water District News Volume XII, Issue 1: Fall-Winter



Investing in Reliability

Building a Stronger Water System

Learn about how the District is investing in the water system to ensure ongoing service reliability for current and future customers. The 2025-2030 Infrastructure Improvement Plan prioritizes projects to provide reliable delivery of quality water at the most reasonable cost and increase resiliency at an agency that is over 80 years old.

PLUS: Water Supply Update





Investing in a Reliable Water System

As the year draws to a close, now is a good time to reflect on how the Goleta Water District (District) invests in the long-term reliability of the water system. With the recent completion of the 2020-2025 Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP), the District has been able to look back at the challenges it faced, the strategies that worked, and use those lessons to shape the newly adopted 2025-2030 IIP – a roadmap for maintaining, upgrading, and modernizing the system to keep water service reliable for years to come.

The Five-Year IIP focuses on projects that support the District's top priorities: ensuring water quality and regulatory compliance, maintaining service levels, and strengthening resiliency. This includes upgrading pipelines, pumps, and treatment facilities, and investing in new technologies to boost efficiency and reliability. The last IIP successfully delivered 43 capital projects while staying within 1% of the planned \$50M budget – an impressive achievement given widespread inflation, supply chain disruptions, and rising prices for essential materials and equipment resulting from the COVID pandemic. This success was made possible through careful project management and regular Board oversight to ensure that every investment delivered maximum value for customers. These same strategies will be key as the District continues to navigate construction-related inflation that is outpacing general consumer price trends due to tariffs.

This newsletter provides a glimpse into some of these critical investments, including two once-in-a-generation projects now in progress. The District is drilling its second new well in over 40 years to strengthen local groundwater reliability, and upgrading its 30-year-old Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system – the connected computer system that serves as the digital backbone of the District water operation. These two projects alone account for \$19 million in planned capital spending for the next five years, but also reflect the reality that as an 80-year-old agency with aging infrastructure, many of these large revitalization projects will be coming due.

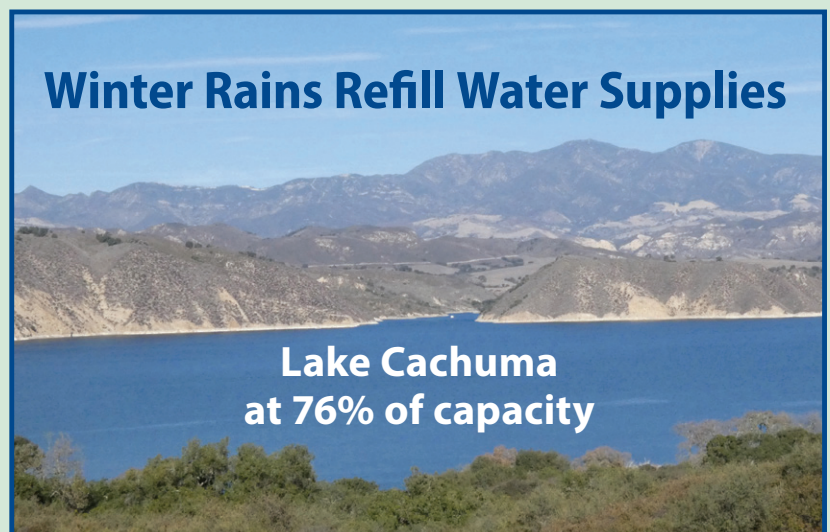
Looking forward, the District remains committed to planning ahead, responsible financial management, and smart investments that keep the water system strong and sustainable. Each project – whether repairing aging infrastructure, upgrading technology, or improving system resiliency – helps ensure safe, reliable water for the Goleta Valley now and in the future.

David Matson

General Manager

Winter Water Supply Update

Wet conditions in recent years have helped maintain high Lake Cachuma levels. With the lake at 76% capacity as of November 2025, Cachuma serves as the District's primary source of supply. Winter rains combined with groundwater injection using District wells have also helped to recharge the Goleta Groundwater Basin. With both local storage and customer conservation efforts, District supplies remain strong, with imported state water stored for future dry years.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q&A

Q: How will new development affect water supplies?

A: New development is not projected to materially increase water use, largely a result of plumbing code changes, water efficiency standards, and the reality that most new units are multi-family residential (MFR) developments with low indoor water usage and shared low-water use outdoor landscaping. Existing single family homes use on average 6 Hundred Cubic Feet (HCF) per month, while a new MFR unit only uses an average of 1-2 HCF. The District has an extensive water supply planning process, including water management plans and water supply assessments submitted to the state annually, which account for the build-out currently projected by the City and the County. The District does not have land use planning authority – its role is limited to issuing water allocations when water is available.

Q: What fees do new development pay?

A: For new homes and businesses that do not already have a water entitlement, the developer pays a one-time fee to connect to the water system. This fee covers the cost of expanding and upgrading water infrastructure so that existing customers are not burdened with the cost of serving new development. The funds can only be used for infrastructure or the purchase of supplemental water to ensure reliable service for everyone.

Q: What is the District doing to ensure reliable water supplies in the future?

A: The District has a diverse water supply portfolio of surface water, groundwater and recycled water, and invests in its water system and supply sources to ensure long-term reliability. Groundwater well investments have included maintaining and rehabilitating existing wells, and drilling two new wells for the first time in over 40 years. These investments will ensure continued reliable access to groundwater and the ability to recharge the basin through injection. Upgraded treatment systems for both surface and groundwater supplies help to maintain high quality water for customers, while investments in aging infrastructure help ensure reliable water delivery. Together, the investments the District is making now enhance resiliency regardless of what the weather brings.

Investing in Our Water Future

Your Water Rates at Work

Nearly a quarter of funding in the new 5-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan is dedicated to two once-in-a-generation projects: a major upgrade to the **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system** – the digital backbone of District water operations critical to maintaining water quality – and the **drilling of a new groundwater well** to increase access to local groundwater. This is only the second new well in 40 years – the first one, the Hope Well, was completed last year. These projects strengthen system reliability, improve efficiency, and ensure sustainable water service into the future.



SCADA System



New Well Project

Once-in-a-Generation Investments ...

The District is making key investments to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for years to come. Nearly a quarter of the new 5-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan funds two once-in-a-generation projects – a major SCADA system upgrade and the drilling of a new groundwater well – to enhance reliability, efficiency, and long-term water sustainability.

Investing in Groundwater Reliability

Groundwater is a critical source of supply for the District, particularly during periods of drought or other emergencies that affect the availability of surface water supplies. Maintaining long-term groundwater production capacity in an aging well field remains a top priority. To offset declining production at existing wells, the District is drilling a new replacement well that will increase access to local supplies, allow for additional injection of water into the basin, and ensure the reliability and resiliency of District water supplies for years to come.

Why is this new well important?

Increased Supply



The new well will offset declining production to meet community demand, providing a reliable backup supply during droughts or other emergencies.

Recharge Capacity



Allows the District to inject excess surface water into the basin, replenishing our underground water supplies while supporting long-term groundwater sustainability and storage.

Reliability & Resilience



Boosts local water security and reduces reliance on imported water.

Project at a Glance

The District is drilling a new groundwater well to expand its ability to draw from and recharge the Goleta Groundwater Basin. The new well is the second in over 40 years.

- **Depth:** 1,150 feet
- **Capacity:** 600 gallons per minute (GPM)
- **Dual Function:** Pump & Recharge



Once completed, this new well will be the District's second deepest groundwater source.

... for Reliable Water Service

Smart Systems for Reliable Water Service

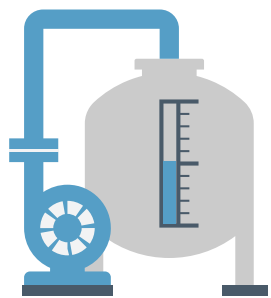
Every drop of water you use travels through a complex network of treatment facilities, pumps, and pipelines. To keep that system running safely and efficiently 24/7, the District uses a state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. SCADA is the “central nervous system” of the District’s water operations – monitoring, controlling, and optimizing water delivery in real time, while providing water treatment operators with the necessary data to maintain and balance water quality conditions to meet all primary state and federal drinking water standards.

What Is SCADA?

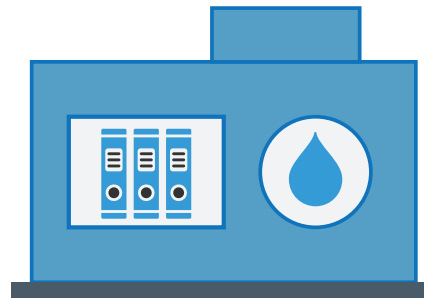
SCADA stands for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. It’s a connected computer system that collects data from field sites – including wells, tanks, and water treatment facilities – and sends information in real time to certified water treatment operators.

How SCADA Provides Reliable Water

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition is the digital backbone of the water system.



Groundwater Wells
and Distribution System



Water Treatment



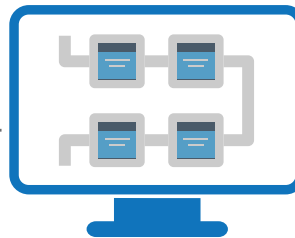
Real-time
Monitoring



Immediate Alerts



Energy Efficiency
and Savings



SCADA System

SCADA by the Numbers

Monitoring **270**
miles of pipeline

Tracking **27** sites:
treatment plants,
reservoirs and wells

Processing **33k**
data points per second

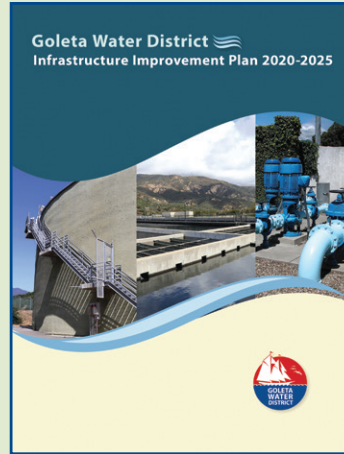
24/7 oversight by
trained operators

Smart technology, reliable delivery – investments in SCADA
keep the water flowing to the Goleta Valley every day.

Significant upgrades to the District’s SCADA system are required to meet the modern needs of District operations and integrate future additions. This project is critical to maintain regulatory compliance and improves the reliability of automated equipment.

Infrastructure Improvement

In June the District completed the fifth and final year of the Board-approved 2020-2025 Infrastructure Improvement Plan (IIP). Approved just after the worst drought in the region's recent history and despite a global pandemic that produced significant inflation, cost increases, and supply-chain disruptions, **the District successfully completed 43 capital projects within less than 1% of the original five-year \$50 million budget.** This achievement highlights the District's nimbleness and dedication to delivering results under extraordinary conditions and unprecedented challenges.



43 capital projects completed within <1% of planned spending



The District's investments focused on three core priorities:

1

Ensuring water quality and regulatory compliance

2

Maintaining service levels for customers

3

Preparing for future challenges

These remarkable results were achieved by pre-ordering critical components to lock in pricing, reengineering and rebidding projects when bids exceeded budgets, and dynamically adjusting project timing in response to delays. The District also successfully secured over \$2.4 million in grants. As the District embarks on the 2025-2030 IIP, with several once-in-a-generation projects, the same lessons and best practices will be used to lay the foundation for the future success of the next five year plan.

Seasonal Color – Sustainable Choices

Winter rains create the perfect planting environment. Establishing shrubs, trees, and perennials now allows roots to grow deep, reducing water needs and stress in the hotter months ahead.

Want color and wildlife support for the cooler season? Choose low-water natives such as **Toyon** with its bright red berries, or **Cleveland Sage** with purple blooms that attract pollinators. Find more climate-friendly plant ideas at WaterWiseGardeningSB.org



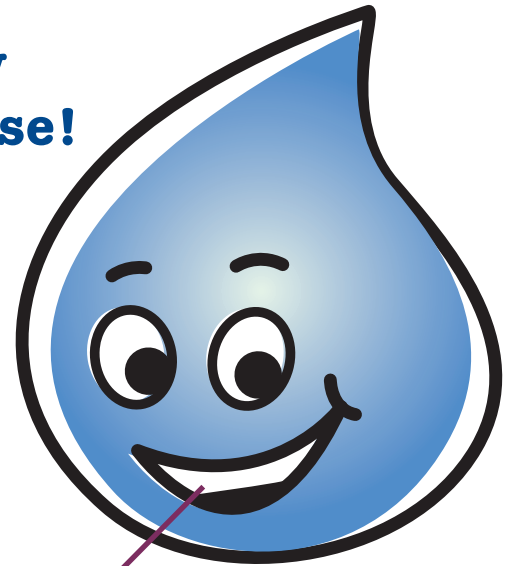
KIDS' CORNER: WATER SAVING PLEDGE



Kids and Families Can Follow This Checklist to be Water Wise!

Indoors

- Take shorter showers/use less water in the bathtub.
- Turn the water off while you brush your teeth or wash your hands.
- Check water fixtures for leaks and fix/replace those that are leaky.
- Perform a dye test to see if your toilets are leaking. To check if a toilet is leaking, remove the cover from the tank, add food coloring until the water in the tank is a dark color. Wait 30 minutes (without using the toilet). If any of the dye has entered the bowl in that time, your toilet is leaking.



Saving water is easy!



Outdoors

- Water in the morning or the evening. This helps reduce loss of water due to evaporation.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save water.
- Make sure your irrigation system is properly set for the season and has no leaks.
- Use a hose nozzle when washing cars or watering your garden.
- Use a broom to clean your driveway instead of a hose.

Word Search - Water Supply Benefits...

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other.

A	W	Y	C	O	E	Q	V	H	H	T	L	A	E	H	H	Y	R	S	S
D	I	C	R	G	Q	D	S	O	P	M	W	F	M	B	L	T	G	L	S
H	L	N	S	O	U	M	X	S	T	C	A	P	J	I	C	W	A	O	E
O	D	E	E	L	Q	M	R	P	G	N	L	Y	M	I	X	I	R	O	N
M	L	G	V	E	L	M	E	I	X	A	F	A	R	E	O	R	D	H	I
E	I	R	B	T	S	Z	C	T	Y	Z	F	T	G	O	N	S	E	C	S
S	F	E	J	A	E	V	L	A	M	R	S	P	K	C	C	S	N	S	U
Y	E	M	L	Q	Q	W	N	L	H	I	G	D	O	I	G	T	S	E	B
J	I	E	R	P	A	R	K	S	D	U	B	T	V	B	Q	E	R	S	K
V	F	S	T	N	A	L	P	B	O	S	D	I	K	Q	D	P	I	Z	P

Find these words!

KIDS
FAMILY
DISTRICT
PARKS

HOMES
SCHOOLS
BUSINESS
PLANTS

GARDENS
EMERGENCY
PLAY
PETS

WILDLIFE
HEALTH
HOSPITALS
GOLETA



GOLETA WATER DISTRICT
4699 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, California 93110
(805) 964-6761
info@goletawater.com

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Visit our website for more information

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Water-Wise Landscaping Tips and Planting
Resources | Board Meeting Agendas and
Minutes | Information About Rates | Water Quality
and more...

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Rain On = Sprinklers Off



Save money and water by turning off your irrigation system when it rains. Wait for the ground to dry out completely before turning your irrigation back on. Many landscapes can go a month or longer without irrigation during periods of rain.

eBilling



Paying your bill online is easy! The Goleta Water District offers customers two free and convenient options for electronic payments: sign up for recurring AutoPay or use E-Check for one-time payments. Both of these payment options can be used through the District's WaterSmart Portal at www.goletawater.watersmart.com.

To learn more about electronic payment options, go to: www.GoletaWater.com/ebilling

Contact

Call us: (805) 964-6761

Office hours: 4699 Hollister Ave.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

Send us an email:
info@GoletaWater.com

Visit our website:
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