



Welcome to

# Goleta Water District News

SUMMER 2012

## Examples of Sustainability Initiatives

**Building Improvements.** Identify efficiency improvements, such as increased insulation, improved windows, and new heating systems to decrease energy use and save money.

**Improve Sustainability of Vehicles and Construction Equipment.** Identify most efficient driving routes to decrease miles driven, lower fuel costs, and increase worker productivity.

**Protect Steel Pipelines from Corrosion.** Proactively protect pipelines from corrosion, to lower maintenance costs, decrease leaks, and save money.



## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

### A Strategy for Achieving Sustainable Water Service

As the largest special district in Santa Barbara County, Goleta Water District is committed to providing the highest level of service to our current and future customers at the most reasonable cost—what we call sustainable water service.

For the first time, the District has gathered past, current and proposed initiatives into a single, comprehensive Sustainability Plan. The Plan demonstrates the District's track record of investing in and planning for initiatives that produce economic, environmental, and social benefits. By doing so, we ensure that costs are controlled and benefits for customers are maximized. For example, be sure to read about the District's upcoming launch of an electronic billing system. This initiative will reduce use of paper, minimize customer trips on area roads to mail water bills, and give customers the information they need to conserve even more water. The Sustainability Plan outlines our sustainable approach to service delivery, producing benefits for our customers and the larger community.

For more about the District's Sustainability Plan, please see the inside pages and visit our website at [www.goletawater.com](http://www.goletawater.com).

John McInnes



General Manager

***At its core, the Sustainability Plan provides a lens through which District initiatives and efforts are recognized, measured and evaluated.***



*Maintaining a sustainable service delivery model that balances principles of sustainability is a fundamental component of upholding the District's mission for customers.*



# HOW WE KEEP COSTS DOWN, ENSURE RELIABILITY

## Come Visit Our Updated Demonstration Garden

The District recently refreshed its Demonstration Garden to enhance its original water-wise landscaping design.

To help customers create beautiful, sustainable, water-wise gardens, the District provides living examples of resource efficient landscaping themes on the grounds of the Administration Office. The plants in the garden are grouped according to water use in a series of “rooms,” and irrigation systems—from low-profile sprinklers to drip systems—are utilized and demonstrated within the gardens.

Looking ahead, the District is exploring a pilot project to introduce edible landscaping to the Demonstration Garden. Landscape that is beautiful, water wise, and provides food: that’s sustainable!

View all these types of water-wise landscapes at Goleta’s Demonstration Garden. Come visit!



The acre-plus garden contains a variety of plant groupings in different styles to provide inspiration and ideas for your garden.

Coming

PERENNIAL BORDER

EXOTIC

MEDITERRANEAN

TRADITIONAL

NATIVE

DESERT

EDIBLE LA

## EXAMPLES OF UPCOMING AND PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

The District has identified 28 Initiatives in the Sustainability Plan. Many are already underway. Each is being reviewed with the goal of maximizing economic, environmental and social sustainability and benefits. Here are a few examples.



### Well Rehabilitation to Provide Many Benefits

The San Ricardo Well is a critical part of the District’s Aquifer Storage & Recovery Program, which enables injection and storage of Lake Cachuma water into the groundwater basin during wet years, for later use during dry years. A \$400,000 state grant was competitively secured to offset costs for this \$1.6 million project.

#### Sustainability Benefits

- ✓ Enhanced emergency preparedness
- ✓ Improved water supply reliability
- ✓ Decreased purchase of expensive State water
- ✓ Cost savings for our customers
- ✓ Decreased energy use

LEARN MORE at [www.GoletaWater.com](http://www.GoletaWater.com)

# ABLE SERVICE AND SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT



is in  
arden.

g Soon

LANDSCAPING

## District an Early Leader in Sustainable Management

*Goleta Water District has a long history of leadership in incorporating sustainability into all aspects of its work. Below are a few examples:*

### GRAVITY WATER SYSTEM REDUCES ENERGY USE AND INCREASES RELIABILITY

As an almost entirely “gravity fed” distribution system, the District uses the natural slope of the mountains and coastal shelf to energize a complex system that moves water from supply sources to customers. This enables the District to avoid high energy and power costs, as well as infrastructure investments such as pumping stations that would otherwise be needed to generate pressure throughout the water system.

### SUSTAINING LOCAL WATER RESOURCES

We are able to provide adequate water to customers in this water short region by carefully managing local resources: Lake Cachuma water, groundwater, recycled water, conserved water, and only turning to more costly State water as a backup.

This kind of sustainable water management ensures the continued availability of water to support current and future generations of customers.

### NATURAL SLUDGE DE-WATERING PROCESS SAVES MONEY

Removing sludge left from the organic filtration process in water treatment is usually done mechanically. We do it naturally, using sun and air, thus saving energy and money.



## Evaluate Solar Energy to Lower Costs, Increase Energy Independence

The District is exploring opportunities for solar installations on District-owned facilities and properties.

### Potential Sustainability Benefits

- ✓ Increased resource independence
- ✓ Reduced costs
- ✓ Increased emergency preparedness



## Hydroelectric Turbines Capture Energy and Offset Costs

GWD installed one of the first renewable electricity generating turbines in the nation to capture energy from water flowing out of its reservoirs. The District is replacing its existing, worn generator with a more efficient one, and evaluating the potential to add others. Thus far, three additional sites have been identified.

### Sustainability Benefits

- ✓ Up to \$80,000 in revenue to offset costs
- ✓ Reduced carbon emissions
- ✓ Payback in three years







**GOLETA WATER DISTRICT**

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**Visit Our Website**

**www.GoletaWater.Com** is a great resource:  
Water-Wise Landscaping Tips and Planting  
Resources | Board Meeting Details, Agendas And  
Minutes | Information About Rates | Water Quality  
and more...

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# GOLETA WATER DISTRICT



*View of an e-Billing iPhone screen.*

## Electronic Billing & Online Payment is Coming

In response to customer requests for online account services, the District will launch a new and improved electronic billing system by the end of the year. E-Billing saves time, money, and paper by making bill payment easier and faster, and helps contribute to a healthy community by providing customers with options for paying bills, without the need to drive to the District office. The e-Billing program is voluntary. For those customers who wish to continue receiving paper bills, the District is committed to providing this service into the future, as we do today.

### E-Billing Will Benefit Customers

- ✓ Real-time access to their account, balances and water usage history,
- ✓ Electronic bill payment, including by credit card!
- ✓ Enables GWD to immediately notify customers in the event of an emergency through advanced telephone and information technologies.
- ✓ Gives customers information needed to conserve even more water.

**Receive Updates.** E-Billing is scheduled to go live before the end of the year. Watch for more information in your monthly billing statements, on the District website, and at our main office! E-mail [ebilling@goletawater.com](mailto:ebilling@goletawater.com) to be placed on the e-Billing mailing list and receive timely updates.

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***In preparation for the launch of e-Billing, and as part of our commitment to ensuring the sound operational condition of our water system and sustainable service to customers, we will be performing a comprehensive survey of all water meters in the District. You may notice District-authorized staff in the field this summer assessing equipment as part of this inventory effort.***

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