



4699 HOLLISTER AVENUE
GOLETA, CALIFORNIA 93110-1999
TELEPHONE 805/964-6761
FAX 805/964-7002

PRESS RELEASE

News Media Contact:

George Eowan, Assistant General Manager
(805) 879-4624

geowan@goletawater.com

DATE: May 26, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT ADOPTS \$25.6 MILLION BUDGET

The Goleta Water District Board of Directors unanimously adopted a \$25.6 million operating budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011 on May 25, 2010. The budget was adopted after a public hearing on May 20, 2010 at which extensive public comment was received, discussed and considered. Bill Rosen, President of the Board, said “this budget was prepared in the most open and transparent process yet.” Rosen added, “the budget was a very careful balancing of projected revenues and expenses in light of lower revenues in the current fiscal year.”

To balance the budget, the District applied approximately \$2 million of cost reductions to virtually all areas of its operations. For example, the Board authorized the refinancing of existing debt to free up over a million dollars each year, use of Central Coast Water Authority credits, reductions in Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board expenses, reductions in Cachuma Conservation Release Board expenses, reductions in legal fees and other annual operating expenses. The cost reductions arise from new policies and procedures and intensive efforts at the direction of the district Board to evaluate every expenditure.

John McInnes, District General Manager, instituted the district’s first “zero-based” budgeting process which involved District staff from every department in a comprehensive and exhaustive review that proposed only those activities and projects that are mission critical. The budget also included, for the first time, a future needs assessment that projects 5-year funding requirements for critical functions such as responsive and preventative maintenance, capital improvements and maintaining an adequate contingency reserve.

Mr. McInnes said, “the budget development process was accomplished over a very short period of time and all who participated are to be commended for their hard work, diligence and perseverance. This budget allows us to live within our means and will serve as a sound foundation for managing our upcoming commitments, plans, projects and costs in a responsible and comprehensive manner.”

###