



## No Drugs Down the Drain

April 28th is "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day," aimed to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing unwanted or expired prescription drugs.

At one time it was common practice to flush prescription medicines down the toilet. However, it is now known that flushing medications can be harmful to our environment - affecting both water quality and the health of our oceans and beaches. You can help keep our wastewater free of pharmaceutical contamination every day by joining Goleta West Sanitary District in supporting Santa Barbara County's "Operation Medicine Cabinet."

### What should you do with your expired medications?

Drop off stations are located at each of the Sheriff's nine substations throughout the County. Residents can deposit all unwanted medications (both prescription and over-the-counter) in the white metal drop-boxes located outside the substations.

### Drop off stations

The three locations in the Goleta and UCSB area are:

- Isla Vista Substation – 6504 Trigo Road
- Goleta Substation – 7042 Marketplace Drive
- Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center – UCSB, Building 565, Mesa Road

For more information:

Call: 805-882-3615  
Visit: [www.sbsheriff.org](http://www.sbsheriff.org)  
[www.lessismore.org](http://www.lessismore.org)



## In Memoriam

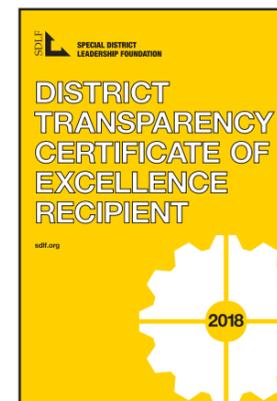
**Kenneth Martin Spencer**  
October 24, 1954 – February 13, 2018



The Staff and Board of Directors of Goleta West Sanitary District are deeply saddened by the passing of an outstanding long-time employee, respected colleague, and friend. Ken was a highly valuable and integral member of our team here at the District. The effects of his passing will be felt for years to come. As our Utility Worker IV, Ken was our most senior person and led the field crew. An employee for nearly three decades, he came to work each day focused on the good of the District, serving our customers, and setting a positive example for all of us. Ken earned several certifications and awards in the wastewater industry including "Collection System Person of the Year" in 1992.

Ken was born and raised in Santa Barbara, attended local schools and enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, airplanes, motorcycles and spending time with his family. Ken will be sorely missed by everyone at the District. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends outside of our District family.

### Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Goleta West Sanitary District



This year, the Goleta West Sanitary District has again received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of our outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

"This award is a testament to Goleta West Sanitary District's commitment to open government," said Mark Nation, General Manager "The Board of Directors is committed to providing the public with information to facilitate engagement and oversight."

In order to receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner. We are proud to have been a recipient of this award every year since 2013.



### Community Calendar

- **Earth Day Festival April 21st-22nd Alameda Park, Santa Barbara**  
Now celebrating its 48th year, the community-organized festival is one of the longest-running Earth Day celebrations in the country – and is believed to be one of the largest Earth Day festivals on the West Coast. For more information, go to [www.cecsb.org](http://www.cecsb.org).
- **6th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day April 26th**  
Prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding your home of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, even vitamins. Goleta West Sanitary District strongly urges the public to not flush unwanted medicines down the sink or toilet! Let's work together to keep our water clean. For more information, go to [www.lessismore.org](http://www.lessismore.org).

# Your Infrastructure Dollars At Work

# Goleta West Sanitary District Newsletter

Spring 2018

GOLETA  
WEST  
SANITARY DISTRICT

## Board of Directors

Eva Turenchalk  
*President*

Dave Bearman, MD  
*Vice-President*

Dr. David C. Lewis

Craig Geyer

Larry D. Meyer

## Visit our Website!

[www.GoletaWest.org](http://www.GoletaWest.org)

## Contact Us

UCSB Campus,  
Parking Lot 32  
P.O. Box 4, Goleta, CA  
93116-0004

[info@GoletaWest.org](mailto:info@GoletaWest.org)

District Office:  
805.968.2617

Fax: 805.562.8987

## Scheduled Sewer Service Charge Increase Canceled

Customers will not see their bills go up this year as the Board of Directors have determined the last of the planned incremental fee increases is not necessary.

In 2013, following recommendations from a study prepared by the District's outside financial consultants, the Board approved a series of six annual sewer service charge increases. These increases were intended to provide funds necessary for implementing capital improvement projects and meeting financial obligations such as the District's share of the recently completed upgrades to the regional wastewater treatment plant operated by the Goleta Sanitary District.

"At the time of approval, the Board agreed to review the rate increases yearly to ensure they were still appropriate," said Eva Turenchalk, Board President.

Upon our most recent review with the District's outside financial consultants, we determined that we could fund ongoing needs without the final year of planned sewer service charge increases.

"Raising rates is always difficult. We are happy to find that we can forego this final installment of rate increases without affecting our quality of service. Our Board is continually impressed with our staff's efficient, high quality work," Turenchalk added.

At the regular Board meeting on March 6, 2018 the Board of Directors approved maintaining current charges that went into effect on July 1, 2017. Additional increases are not anticipated in the foreseeable future.

*"District finances are very strong. We are in a good position to continue our planned capital improvement projects and meet our ongoing maintenance needs."*

*District General Manager  
Mark Nation.*

To learn more about District finances and projects visit our website at [www.GoletaWest.org](http://www.GoletaWest.org). Follow the "Customer Info" tab and click "Financial Information" or "Sewer System Mgmt Plan" in the drop down menu.



## Habitat Restoration and Sewer System Improvements Continue

Phelps Road Sewer Trunk Line Project will improve the sewer system and remove outdated infrastructure from the environmentally sensitive Storke Wetland.

The Storke Wetland, which was historically part of the Goleta Slough Estuary, is valuable habitat that currently supports extensive salt marsh as well as freshwater and transitional upland habitat. When sewer systems were being built in the 50's and 60's, the value of the habitat where infrastructure was being located wasn't fully appreciated. As part of our continued dedication to protecting the environment, Goleta West Sanitary District has been planning and implementing projects that will remove old system infrastructure from habitat areas and replace them with modern infrastructure in more appropriate locations.

The replacement of the old Mesa Road pipeline, which was located just south of Mesa Road in the East Storke Wetlands, was the first of these projects. That project is complete and habitat restoration is well underway.

In January of 2015, native salt marsh was seeded and more than 600 native salt marsh plants were planted in the wetland area. Fifteen native coast live oaks were also planted to mitigate for the needed removal of five Italian Stone Pines lining Mesa Road. The restoration process is being conducted and monitored by UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration and continues to be a success.

The District's next project, Phelps Road Sewer Trunk Line Project, is essentially the "final phase" for removing infrastructure out of the Storke Wetland and returning the habitat to its native state. Construction is slated to begin this year and is expected to take between six and nine months to complete.

Restoration planting in progress



As the project moves forward, the District will provide customers with updates on our website [www.GoletaWest.org/projects](http://www.GoletaWest.org/projects) and in subsequent newsletters.

## The Phelps Road Sewer Trunk Line Project to Start in 2018

- Abandonment of approximately 1,000 feet of existing sewer line and removal of the associated manholes from within the Storke Wetlands
- Installation of approximately 3,800 feet of sewer line along Phelps Road
- Installation of approximately 1,900 feet of sewer line along Mesa Road
- Installation of approximately 900 feet of sewer line extending south along Sycamore Walk from Mesa Road.

The Storke Wetland is part of the UCSB Campus and the restoration activities are being conducted by the University's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER).

One of the manholes to be removed from the Storke Wetland.

