

Subject: GVPAC Meeting Summary for March 3, 2009

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Hello Everyone,

The following summarizes the general issues discussed during the last GVPAC meeting.

Meeting Notes for March 3, 2009:

1. Next Meeting:
 - a. *Date:* March 18, 2009
 - b. *Location:* Planning Commission Hearing Room
 - c. *Agenda:* Public Services and Facilities
 - i. Transportation and Mobility (continuation from February 3, 2009)
 - ii. Parks, Recreation, Trails, Open Space (continuation from February 18, 2009)
 - iii. General Land Use
 - Rural/Urban Land Uses
 - Land Use Designations
 - Resource Constraints/Opportunities
2. Main Overview: The primary purpose of this meeting was to continue to learn about the Public Services and Facilities Super Element of the 1993 Goleta Valley Community Plan (GCP), and in particular Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Septic Systems, and Water Wells.
 - a. *Goleta Sanitary District:* Presentation by the General Manager, Kamil Azoury. The Goleta Sanitary District is located next to the airport and serves the Goleta Valley, UCSB, the Santa Barbara Airport, and several County of Santa Barbara facilities such as the jail. The discharge from the facility is about one mile offshore and 90 feet deep. They have numerous monitoring devices that continuously check the health of the environment surrounding the discharge area. Their primary responsibilities include treatment, recycling and disposal of waste water. Their collection systems area is a subset of the treatment service area, which is the entire Goleta Valley.
 - i. The Collections System comprises 200 miles of sewers with a proactive maintenance and repair program. There are long-term master and financial plans in place.
 - ii. The Industrial Waste Control Program regulates all industries and is effective at eliminating pollutants at the source. Testing for illegal discharge is done randomly with no prior notice. Every discharger in the community is monitored. The District has enforcement powers, including fines and imprisonment. The output is a clean effluent (purified waste water) with Class A bio-solids that can be used freely by the community in their own soils. You can visit their facility to pick up the bio-solids at no cost.
 - iii. The Treatment Facilities were designed for a treatment capacity of 9 million gallons per day (mgd) (average dry weather/summer flow). The capacity refers to the solid waste flow, not the water flow. The current flow from the community is 5.4 mgd, well below the capacity limits. There is sufficient capacity for existing development plans for the Goleta Valley.
 - iv. The Reclamation Facilities recycle the incoming waste water for non-potable use. The reclamation capacity is 3.3 mgd and the average existing demand is 1.5 mgd (during the summer months). They

can store about 3 million gallons of recycled water. The distribution system is under the jurisdiction of the Goleta Water District.

- v. The district facilities can continue to operate for about 10 days without power and they are capable of recycling the methane gas discharge generated from the waste water to power some of their own systems. Their gas bill is about \$10 per month.
 - vi. Testing and Monitoring: While they have their own modern laboratory facilities, they send many samples for outside testing to avoid any conflict of interest. They test the effluent routinely for various bacteria and remove 86% of the solids. The EPA requirement is 85%. All bacteriological standards are met. They have an extensive ocean testing program including a mussel watch program: mussels are filter feeders and will accumulate chemicals that can then be detected.
 - vii. UCSB has an entitlement to about 7.9% of the plant capacity. Anything above that capacity will need to be satisfied by other means.
- b. *Goleta Water District (GWD)*: Presentation by Interim General Manager, Eric Ford. The GVPAC meeting was also attended by the members of the District Board of Directors. Mr. Ford was introduced by Director Lauren Hanson.
- i. The Goleta Water District is a Special District that was formed by a vote on November 17, 1944, and is governed by a five person Board of Directors, each serving a four-year term. The goal of GWD is “to provide an adequate supply of quality water at the most reasonable cost to the present and future customers within the Goleta Water District.” It serves an existing 16,000 connections, or approximately 84,000 people. The service area includes the entire Goleta Valley.
 - ii. Growth in the 1940’s led to over-pumping of the groundwater basin which prompted the creation of the GWD. Lake Cachuma and the Tecolote tunnels were built in the 1950’s to bring water to the valley. The demand exceeded the Cachuma supply in the 1960’s which led to the Wright Suit in the 1970’s and to restrictions on pumping in the 1980’s. The recycled water project and state water project were initiated in the 1990’s. The most recent challenges to the district include the introduction of new chemicals in the water supply as a result of fire-fighting activity due to recent fires such as the Zaca Fire.
 - iii. The GWD facilities include the Corona del Mar Water Treatment Plant which is capable of processing 36 mgd. The current average is 9.4 mgd (or 14,000 acre-feet, including recycled water). There is a recycled water distribution system and eight reservoirs with a storage capacity of 20 million gallons, as well as six water wells that can supply 5,400 acre-feet per year. There are approximately 250 miles of pipelines and 1,300 fire hydrants. Every connection is metered. The total investment to date in these facilities is \$89 million.
 - iv. The reclaimed water project was initiated with UCSB in the 1990’s. The reclaimed water is supplied by the Goleta Sanitary District through UCSB which samples the water before it is distributed to the community. Director Bert Bertrando stated that the cost of reclaimed water is \$20,000 per acre-foot, as compared with \$2,500 per acre-foot for desalinated water, and \$1,500 per acre-foot for state water. The majority of the cost of reclaimed water is the cost of providing a second distribution system. The existing recycled water distribution system is very limited and the primary users are parks and golf courses as well as UCSB. The district is capable of providing 3,000 acre-feet of recycled water but the existing demand is only 1,000 acre-feet. The demand used to be as high as 1,500 acre-feet but some customers have switched to Astroturf (such as Girsh Park), thereby lowering the demand. There are plans to reprocess the recycled water so that it will be potable.
 - v. Pre-1997 sources of water included 9,700 acre-feet of Lake Cachuma water and 5,000 acre-feet of well water, for a total of 14,700 acre-feet. The post-1997 supply of water includes 4,500 acre-feet of state water, 1,500 acre-feet of recycled water, 9,322 acre-feet of Lake Cachuma water, and 2,350 acre-feet of well water, for a total (maximum) supply of 17,672 acre-feet. If customers could be found an additional 1,500 acre-feet of recycled water could be supplied.
 - vi. Water supplies are dynamic and depend on the existing conditions. During drought years the state water and Lake Cachuma supplies will be reduced to 745 and 6,898 acre-feet per year, respectively,

but the groundwater allotment will increase to 5,600 acre-feet per year, for a total of 14,743 acre-feet. The average Goleta home uses about 0.25 acre-foot of water a year.

- vii. The current demand is 14,000 acre-feet with an expected build-out demand of 16,243 acre-feet. However, the existing supply for a critical year is 14,743 acre-feet. We are entitled to 17,672 acre-feet during a non-drought year. The build-out demand study assumed a 1% growth over a 20-year period and was based on current zoning.
 - viii. The SAFE Ordinance (passed in 1991 and amended in 1994) authorizes the importation of state water (4,500 acre-feet maximum deliverable, with 7,450 acre-feet purchased), and the establishment of a drought buffer through the replenishment of the groundwater supply to the 1972 groundwater levels. The drought buffer is made available during drought years when the Cachuma supply is reduced.
 - ix. There is a great deal of fluctuation in the amount of water delivered and although the number of customers has increased over time, the actual water delivered has not increased by the same percentage due to successful conservation measures.
 - x. The total organic carbon content in the water has increased due to the retardant that was used to fight the Zaca fire. This has stressed the water supply management process and increased treatment costs. The current solution is to blend the water with other supplies to meet health regulations.
 - xi. Current plans for the future include the rehabilitation of the San Ricardo well as well as a couple of other wells. The water mains are replaced annually. There is a proposal to create a new interconnect between the City of Santa Barbara for some additional redundancy. Since the current reservoir facilities can only meet the needs of the community for three days, several new reservoirs are planned, including a new recycled water reservoir.
 - xii. Committee members noted that unlike other public utilities, the water rates are not tiered to reward users who use the least.
- c. *Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division: Presentation by Collections and Materials Manager, Leslie Wells.*
- i. There are two franchised haulers in the Goleta Valley: MarBorg Industries and BFI. MarBorg's term ends in 2011 with two possible four-year extensions through 2019. BFI's term ends in 2011. The Collection Programs include residential and commercial services. Residential services include weekly trash and green waste collections and recyclables every other week. A customer may ask for the collection of bulky items once per year. Commercial services also include the collection of trash, green waste and recyclables, but the collection frequency is based on need.
 - ii. The County of Santa Barbara owns and operates the Tajiguas Landfill on the Gaviota Coast. It was opened in the 1960's and receives approximately 175,000 tons per year (tpy). Just two years ago it received 220,000 tons of fill. This reduction is primarily due to the current recession, and is not necessarily due to recycling. The site is predicted to operate through 2023. However, additional recycling measures and other diversions can extend the operational life of the landfill.
 - iii. The South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCR&TS) is located off of Calle Real and accepts green waste, electronics, as well as trash. While the SCR&TS accepts self-hauled waste, Tajiguas only allows customers with accounts. The SCR&TS is open six days a week.
 - iv. Green waste is cleaned and ground and marketed as mulch, which is used by many local orchards, parks, and homes. The mulch has been found to be very useful since it retains water, thereby requiring less irrigation in the orchards.
 - v. Comingled recyclables are transported to the Gold Coast Recycling center in Ventura and any residual (non-marketable materials) is hauled back to Tajiguas. The residual accounts for approximately 10% of the total. There has been an 80% decline in the value of recycled materials due to the current recession.
 - vi. There is a permanent collection center at UCSB that accepts hazardous waste. It is open to the public on weekends and to businesses on Fridays and will accept any hazardous waste that isn't radioactive. It is paid for by the County and the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara through fees in the trash bill of

the residents of those areas. There are also two facilities run by MarBorg that will accept used motor oil, latex paint, anti-freeze and batteries. Those facilities are located at David Love Place in Goleta and Cacique Street in Santa Barbara and are open six days a week.

- vii. Electronic waste is a growing problem and it is now illegal to dump monitors (CRTs) in landfills. The SCR&TS accepts e-waste free of charge as do the MarBorg facilities at David Love Place and Cacique Street.
 - viii. The purchase of trash collection franchise services is not mandatory for residents except in Isla Vista. Trash must be collected once a week unless it belongs to a food service provider, and in that case must be collected at least twice a week. Trash cans are not supposed to be visible from the street.
 - ix. In 1989 the state mandated that 50% of all trash be diverted from landfills. The County and the City of Goleta have a diversion rate of 69%, which is in the top 10% of the state.
 - x. The Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance in 2003 that requires commercial recycling. There is a 99% compliance rate. However, the compliance rate only refers to the fact that a business has a recycling can on the premises. New developments must provide sufficient space for recycling containers.
 - xi. A new standard requires that 50% of construction material must be recycled. This includes demolition debris. Large projects expecting 350 tons of waste must develop a solid waste management program (SWMP).
 - xii. The website www.lessismore.org provides a great deal of information on how to help reduce waste. The County also sells composting bins and promotes school programs such as 'Art from Scrap'.
 - xiii. Existing apartments are not currently required provide recycling bins, although many are providing them voluntarily.
- d. *Septic and Water Well Systems:* These services are governed by Environmental Health Services (EHS), the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element which requires the use of appropriate public sewer and water district services, if available.
- i. Septic systems are under the jurisdiction of the EHS, not the Goleta Sanitary District. The EHS is responsible for permitting and inspection of sewers and lines between the septic tank(s) and the structures. Some community plans include restrictions on septic systems such as requiring septic system inspections every four years and buffers of 100 feet from creek banks.
 - ii. Water Wells: In addition to permitting and inspections, the EHS also administers the well water quality program which includes bacteriological and chemical sampling.
3. Public Comment:
- a. *Mary Whalen:* Appreciated the detailed notes taken for public comment in the official minutes.
 - b. *Karen Quimby:* Announced the Green Gardening Day which was held on March 7th, 2009 at La Sumida Gardens. Ms. Quimby was representing the 2nd District Supervisor, Janet Wolf.
 - c. *Brian Trautwein:* Submitted an e-mail stressing the importance of water conservation, water supply, focusing on water-conscious re-development instead of new development, preserving farmland and promoting local produce.

For additional information, the official minutes, and the meeting audio, please see the county website:

<http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/goleta/gvpac.php>

Once again let me know if you do not wish to receive these e-mails, and feel free to forward them to others.

Thank you!

-Kenan (Kenan.Ezal@cox.net)

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