

1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Goleta West Sanitary District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

Description of District

The District was formed November 8, 1954 and operates pursuant to the Sanitary District Act of 1923 (Health & Safety Code §6400 et seq.).

It is located in southern Santa Barbara County, specifically in the western Goleta Valley on both sides of Highway 101 and includes much of the City of Goleta and unincorporated Isla Vista.

A five-member board of directors, elected at-large, governs the District. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions. A District organizational chart is included as part of this report.

The District’s exterior boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere is included.

District Services

The District provides wastewater collection. The District collects its fees through the property tax rolls and annually bills approximately 5,475 parcels. It serves a population of in excess of 33,000 and maintains about 62 miles of mainline sewers.

The District accepts wastewater from the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District (EMID) that is largely outside the District, and by agreement with that District, performs maintenance for the EMID collection system.

Sewage is treated at the Goleta Sanitary District's treatment plant through a joint use agreement for treatment and disposal. The District has capacity rights for over 40% of the treatment plant.

The District also provides street sweeping that is funded by property taxes.

Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District are the City of Goleta, Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District, Goleta Water District, County Service Area 31 (Isla Vista), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District.

3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District's Wastewater Master Plan (2007) evaluates current facilities and projects capital needs to serve projected growth in service demand. Several major capital improvement plans are scheduled to be completed in the coming years.

From the information provided in its adopted plans, the District has substantial remaining capacity for future service demands.

Growth and Population Projections

The District serves the majority of the City of Goleta and unincorporated areas, namely Isla Vista and the Embarcadero development. It has sufficient capacity to serve projected land uses within its sphere of influence.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

Major District revenues are sewer user fees and ad valorem property taxes. The fees are established, as required by State funding guidelines, to recover sewer system operations, maintenance and replacement costs. Property taxes received by the District exceed \$1 million this year.

Cost-Avoidance Opportunities

The Commission previously endorsed consolidating sewer services in the Goleta Valley in order to reduce administrative costs and inefficiency for these programs and promote economy in the use of personnel and equipment.

The District participates in a Joint Powers Authority with other public utilities to obtain pooled property, automotive, liability and workers compensation insurance savings. The District also avoids costs through a contractual agreement with three other south coast sanitary districts to share the employment of a safety officer.

Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

The District's rates are established to recover costs. The opportunity for restructuring rates occurs during annual budget processes and the adoption of each rate ordinance.

Opportunities for Shared Facilities

The District is currently sharing a treatment facility with the Goleta Sanitary District, City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara and UCSB.

Government Structure Options

One option is consolidation with the Goleta Sanitary District. Both agencies were formed and operate under the same principal act, provide similar services and share a single wastewater treatment plant. The Commission previously endorsed this option.

The "Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews" asked,

"Are there structural reorganizations such as consolidations or reorganizations that your agency thinks should be evaluated in the next few years to benefit recipients of your agency's services or improve the provision of services generally?"

The District has responded that merger of the two districts was evaluated in 2005. The Goleta West Board of Directors adopted a motion on December 6, 2005 to "not further study (consolidation with GSD) unless new, conclusive information is brought forth."

Management Efficiencies

The District exhibits the characteristics of an agency serving its residents and customers effectively. More efficient use of personnel and equipment might be possible via the consolidation or unification with the adjacent Goleta Sanitary District.

Local Accountability and Governance

The District is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. District Newsletters can be accessed on its website.

4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District's exterior boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere are included.

No Proposed Boundary Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded as follows:

Do you feel that your agency's boundary is correct at this time?	Yes
Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within its boundaries or its sphere of influence?	No
Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency?	No

Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Goleta West Sanitary District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. District staff, notably General Manager/Superintendent Mark Nation, was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by County Surveyor.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence.