

Water Features

Goleta Water District News – Winter 2019



Stage III Water Shortage Emergency

Celebrating 75 Years of Service...

And Planning for the Next 75!

November 17, 2019 marks the District's 75th Anniversary. Learn more about how the District is preparing for the future in a way that will continue to support the mission of providing a reliable supply of quality water at the most reasonable cost to present and future customers.

Plus: *How Past Investment Pays Future Dividends*





75 Years of Service

The District was founded on November 17, 1944 by a vote of the people to ensure the Goleta Valley's interests were served by the new Cachuma project. At the time, a gallon of gas cost seventeen cents, and a loaf of bread was ten cents.

While plenty has changed in those 75 years, much of the original infrastructure remains in place. In fact, many of the original steel pipes constructed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950s and 1960s continue to supply Cachuma water to the area today. All of this infrastructure will be due for replacement in the coming decades—a challenge facing many utilities and communities across California and the United States.

Beyond the costs of replacing our aging infrastructure, additional investment in the District's water supplies will also likely be needed to maintain reliability for present and future customers. Additionally, the District must continue to plan for future uncertainties like more frequent droughts and changing Federal and State regulations so as to minimize risks while balancing costs.

You can read more about these challenges and the District's history in this Newsletter. As we count down to the District's 75th Anniversary this fall, we'll be sharing historical photographs and archival materials on our website that document the infrastructure we all rely on every day. Certainly, by recognizing and understanding the District's history, we will all be best equipped to address future challenges and realize another 75 years of reliable and safe water deliveries.

John McInnes

General Manager

Stage III Water Shortage Emergency Restrictions Reminder

- ◆ No irrigation is allowed for 48 hours after it rains.
- ◆ Outdoor landscape irrigation remains limited to no more than two times per week during early morning or late evening hours:
 - Manual watering (including with a sprinkler attached to a hose) is only allowed before 8 a.m. or after 8 p.m., any two days per week.
 - Use of fixed (i.e. installed) sprinkler systems must comply with the following updated schedule:
 - Residential properties may water Wednesdays and Saturdays, before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
 - Commercial and institutional properties may water Tuesdays and Fridays, before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
 - Public parks, athletic fields, and golf courses may water no more than two days per week, before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
- ◆ Hotels, motels, and other lodging are required to post water shortage notices, and refrain from daily linen washing unless specifically requested by the patron.
- ◆ Agricultural customers using overhead spray irrigation outdoors are restricted to before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

For a complete list of restrictions, information on conservation, tips, and rebates visit www.GoletaWater.com.



Q&A

Q: When does the District typically use groundwater?

A: The mix of water the District serves varies with season and location. Generally, more groundwater is served during the winter, and increasingly blended with surface water in the summer when demand is higher. Those customers located near wells may receive a higher blend of well water, while customers at higher elevations may receive more surface water since moving water from the wells to these elevations requires more energy. Customers are unlikely to notice the difference between the various blends of water.

Q: What is the process for new projects to hook up to the recycled water system?

A: State law requires that if a project is adjacent to the District's recycled water infrastructure, then the project must use recycled water for irrigation purposes. Projects that wish to hook up to the recycled water system must indicate their intent in an application to the District, and provide estimated demand and flow requirements. Any project that seeks recycled water must seek to use the water for a use that is permitted by the State, such as landscape irrigation or dust control, and meet all necessary requirements for use of recycled water.

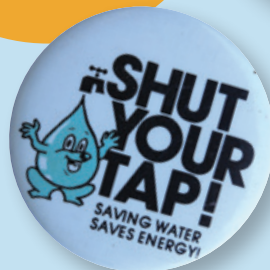
Q: How is the District complying with the new State law on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) given the local moratorium on new water connections?

A: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are small apartments typically located behind or adjacent to an existing Single Family home. The new law prohibits the District from treating the conversion of an existing structure to an ADU as a new water demand. As such, these conversion projects cannot be charged additional capacity fees, and are not subject to the current moratorium on new connections. For ADUs that involve construction of a new detached structure, the parcel must have sufficient historic water credit to serve the main existing structure and the new unit, or fall within an exception to the current moratorium in order to proceed.

A History of Conservation

The District and its customers have long been leaders in conservation. The Goleta Valley has always excelled at saving water, from introducing the first low-flow toilet rebate program in the country back in the 1980s, to consistently having among the lowest average water use per residential user across the state. These vintage pins and graphics show the many ways our community has worked to reduce water use over the decades.

Conservation Buttons from the 1970s!



Conservation is a way of life in the Goleta Valley

Preparing for an Uncertain Future

FUTURE →

As the District celebrates 75 years, it is important to not only reflect on the accomplishments of the past, but to anticipate and plan for a future that is sustainable, financially sensible, and forward looking. Externalities like severe and cyclic droughts, increasing Federal and State regulations, and the need to replace aging infrastructure are all likely to present challenges in the coming years, though the exact timing and parameters of each of these potential disrupters cannot be known with certainty.

By attempting to understand the sources, timing and significance of these changes the District can plan for and predict likely outcomes. Being proactive provides an opportunity to influence these changes ahead of time to achieve preferred results.

DROUGHT



The length and severity of the current drought has revealed a number of limitations in how our original infrastructure was designed. For example, the treatment and distribution system was originally designed around surface water supplies from Lake Cachuma using gravity to move water downhill. Overcoming these limitations requires significant investment.

Additionally, the quantity and quality of surface water has declined and the District increasingly relies on blending ground and surface water. Pumping stations that were intended for use in emergencies have been placed into permanent service to move water to customers at higher elevations, requiring a redesign of that infrastructure. Maintaining adequate supplies and balancing the delivery of diverse water sources while minimizing service interruptions has proven costly, a trend that will likely continue.

TRENDS AND DRIVERS

Climate change may bring more severe, frequent droughts and wildfires, and give rise to more water quantity and quality issues.

STRATEGY

The experience of the past eight years of drought has emphasized the need to plan for system operations that permanently rely on the careful and strategic use of surface and ground water to meet demand. The District has updated its Urban Water Management Plan, Water Supply Management Plan and Groundwater Management Plan to reflect modeling from the current drought, and completed a Recycled Water Feasibility Study and a Stormwater Capture Masterplan to examine potential options for increasing water supply and recharging the basin. At the same time, the Infrastructure Improvement Plan outlines targeted investments in the distribution system critical to ensuring that water can be moved quickly in large volumes throughout the District. These plans will guide prudent management of the District's water supply sources and infrastructure projects to invest in the right projects at the right time.

The Next 75 Years

CHANGING REGULATIONS

Increased or changing regulations related to water quality, environmental species and habitat, and District operations all have the potential to impact water supply and costs. A pending State Water Rights Order and a new Biological Opinion from the Federal government will be released in the near future. Both will potentially require additional water releases and operational changes at Lake Cachuma beyond the current fish management program, and may also require additional mitigation over the next ten to twenty years.

Additionally, as water quality conditions change in response to the drought and recent fires in the watershed, and advancements in treatment technologies become available, investments will likely be necessary to meet ongoing standards as well as future regulations.

TRENDS AND DRIVERS

New State and Federal Regulations and changing water quality conditions will need to be addressed.

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Just like the plumbing in your home ages, so does the District's. Our infrastructure is coming due for replacement. The District's nine wells are over 50 years old, with a typical expected life of 30 years. Many of the District's 270 miles of water mains and service lines were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, putting their age above 50 years. The District's average age for all pipelines is 48 years. All infrastructure eventually fails, and the District is investigating methods of prolonging the life of all of its assets through proper maintenance. Even though rehabilitation is being considered as an alternative to replacement, costs are expected to rise.

TRENDS AND DRIVERS

An aging system with infrastructure near or at its expected service life will require significant investment.

STRATEGY

The District actively partners with local water providers to collaborate on these issues and share costs. Joint analysis has been conducted of the types of additional mitigations that have been required of other communities, such as fish hatcheries and fish ladders to help spawning steelhead reach headwaters. Cost sharing on any projects and mitigations will save ratepayers significant money as they could cost tens of millions of dollars.

The District is also sharing water quality data and evaluating various short, medium, and long term treatment options to address changing water quality conditions at the lake. By pilot testing various treatment options, the District is able to contain costs and take advantage of advances in treatment technologies to find the most cost-effective solution.

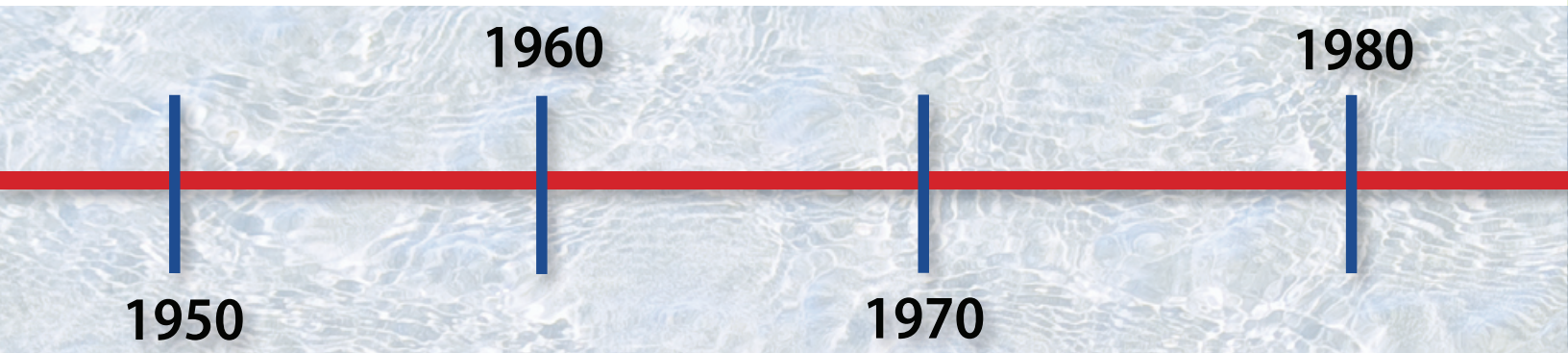


STRATEGY

With an overall system valued at \$1 billion, proactive replacement would be prohibitively expensive for rate payers. Instead, the District budgets for emergency repairs in its Infrastructure Improvement Plan, and maintains a reserve to cover unexpected expenses. The District is also conducting a conditions assessment with high definition video and electromagnetic sensors to inspect aging pipes and identify areas of the system that should be proactively replaced to prevent service interruptions or more costly repairs.

Where Does Your Water Come From?

Responding to drought conditions at the time, the Goleta Water District was formed by a vote of the people on November 17, 1944. One of the original purposes for the formation of the District was to establish a legal entity representing the Goleta Valley to enter into contracts with the United States Bureau of Reclamation and other area purveyors to build Lake Cachuma. Like so much of the District's water supply, this effort to secure a reliable source of water required significant investment by rate payers. Here is a look at how past investment has led to the diverse supply the Goleta Valley continues to depend on today.



Lake Cachuma

Constructed by the Federal government in the early 1950s, the Goleta Water District is entitled to 36%, or 9,322 AF of the Lake's yield each year. Historically, that alone is enough to meet three-quarters of the District's water needs. The availability of Cachuma water varies from year to year as a result of weather, runoff, and drought conditions.



Groundwater

The Goleta Groundwater Basin plays a critical role in the District's water supply portfolio, especially during periods of drought. Under normal conditions, the District has a court-determined right to pump 2,350 acre feet per year, and the District can store water in a drought buffer for use during dry periods. Most of the District wells were drilled in the 1970s and with recent rehabilitation can currently produce 6,000 acre feet per year, enough to meet the minimum health and safety needs of the community.

How Past Investment Pays Future Dividends

State Water

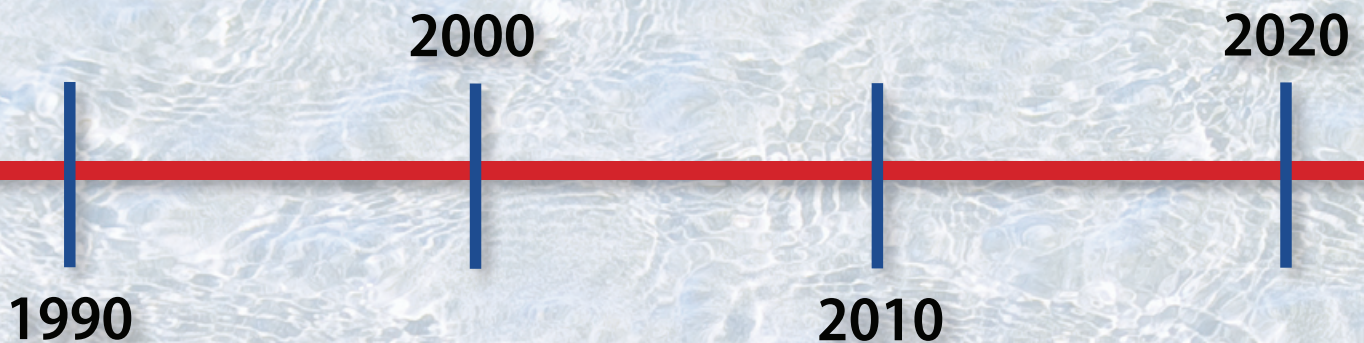
Following a severe drought, Goleta Water District residents voted to join the State Water Project in 1991, recognizing the need for a supplemental source of supply. The State Water Project depends on a complex system of dams, reservoirs, power plants, pumping plants, canals, and aqueducts to deliver water from rivers in Northern California. The District is entitled to up to 7,450 AF of water per year, and during drought, imported water accounts for about 1/3 of the District's water supply portfolio.



Did You Know?

Even maintaining access to current water supply sources requires ongoing investment in the infrastructure necessary to access it. For example:

- When the wells were left dormant after the 1990s drought, significant investment was needed to return to production.
- The recycled water system is over 20 years old. The corrosivity of recycled water means many components of the system age faster than those that carry potable water.
- Ongoing assessments related to the Federal Cachuma Project and the State Water Project help pay for infrastructure needs and repairs that are vital to ensuring continued delivery.



Recycled Water

Since 1995, the District has provided recycled water in partnership with the Goleta Sanitary District. A drought proof source of supply, every drop of recycled water conserves potable water supplies for drinking, health and safety. Recycled water represents approximately 7% of District supplies, or 1,000 acre feet a year.



This dedication to developing and protecting a diverse water supply portfolio over the years has paid countless dividends to current residents. As infrastructure ages, additional investment will be necessary to make sure these valuable resources remain available into the future. To learn more about where your water comes from watch the District's video series at www.GoletaWater.com/videos.



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REMEMBER, YOU CAN PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

Visit our website for more information

www.GoletaWater.com is a great resource
Water-Wise Landscaping Tips and Planting
Resources | Board Meeting Agendas and
Minutes | Information About Rates | Water Quality
and more...

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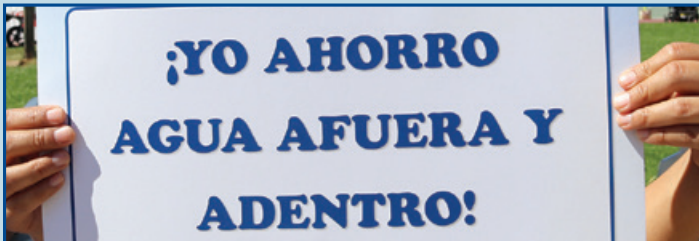
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New Spanish Language Resources on Website



Una Página de Recursos en el Idioma Español ha sido agregada al sitio Web con un botón de navegación fácil de encontrar. Allí puede encontrar información sobre conservación, respuestas a preguntas comunes, e información sobre como establecer su cuenta, como pagar sus cuentas y mucho más.

Para más información, visite
www.GoletaWater.com/recursos-en-español

A Spanish Language Resources Page has been added to the website with an easy to find navigation button. Find information on conservation, answers to common questions, and information on setting up an account, paying bills, and more.

New Online Customer Service Tools



The District recently launched an improved customer service website section that allows customers to make service requests and account changes at their convenience using a variety of online tools and electronic forms. For more information visit
www.GoletaWater.com/customer-service

Contact

Call us: (805) 964-6761
Press 1 for drought information

Visit our office: 4699 Hollister Ave.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

Send us an email:
info@GoletaWater.com

Visit our website:
www.GoletaWater.com

The District Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the District office. The public is always welcome.

Follow us on social media:

