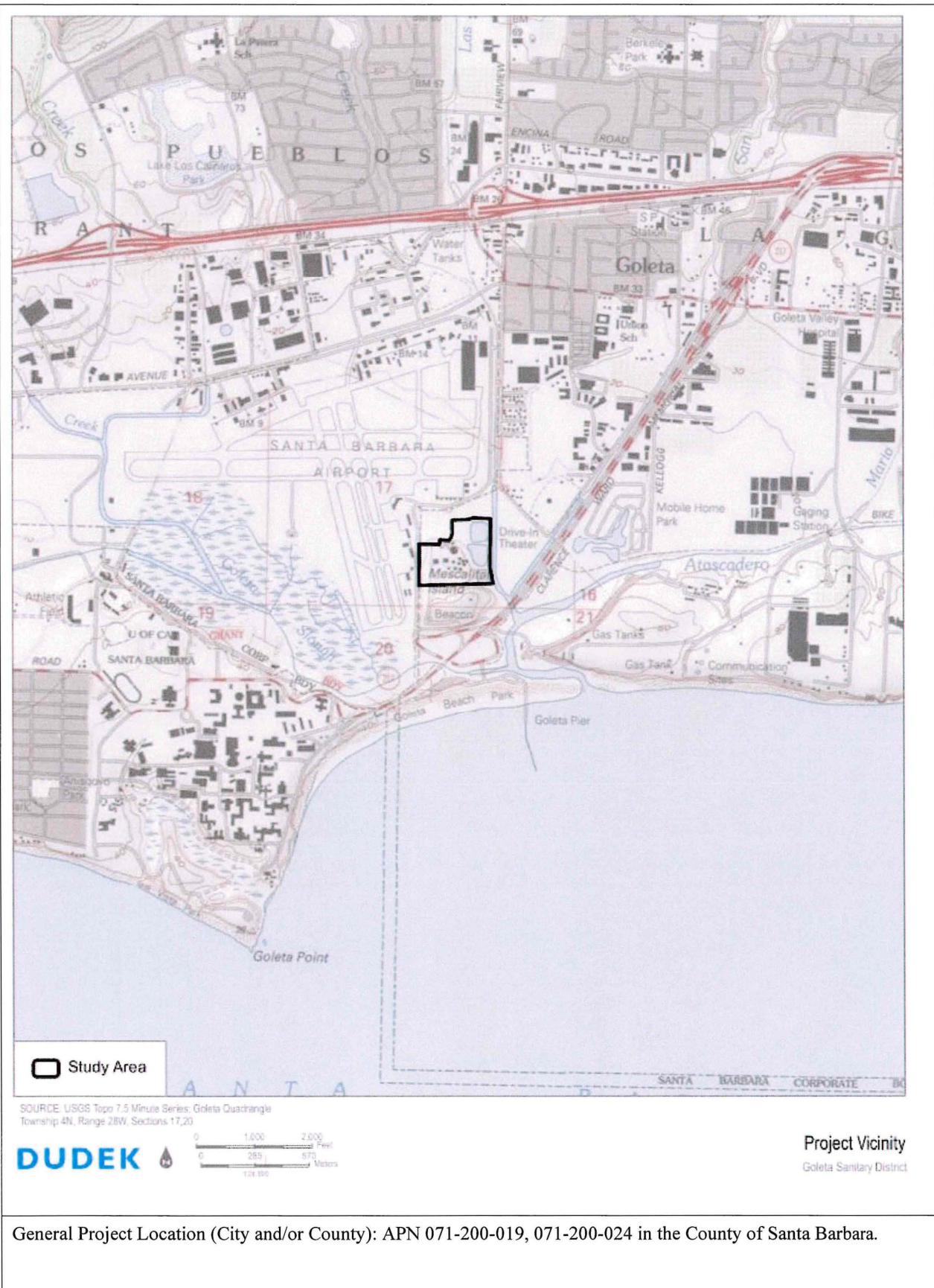


## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TO: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors<br>or<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Clerk<br>Address:<br><br>County of Santa Barbara<br>1100 Anacapa Street<br>Santa Barbara, CA 93121 | FROM:                                                                               | Lead Agency Name and Address:<br><br>Goleta Sanitary District<br>1 William Moffett Place<br>Goleta, CA 93117-3901<br><br>Contact: Steve Wagner<br>Phone: 805-967-4519 |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                     | Email: swagner@goletasanitary.org                                                                                                                                     |
| TO: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation<br>State Clearinghouse<br>1400 Tenth Street, Rm. 113<br>Sacramento, CA 95814                                                        | Lead Agency (if different from above)<br><br>Address:<br><br>Contact:<br><br>Phone: |                                                                                                                                                                       |

**SUBJECT:** Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| State Clearinghouse Number<br>(If submitted to SCH):<br><br>2025100842                                                                                                                                  |
| Project Title:<br>Solids Handling Improvement Project                                                                                                                                                   |
| Project Applicant (include address, telephone number and email address):<br><br>Goleta Sanitary District<br>1 William Moffett Place, Goleta CA 93117-3901<br>805-967-4519<br>swagner@goletasanitary.org |
| Specific Project Location – Identify street address and cross street or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 ½' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):              |



**Project Description:**

Goleta Sanitary District (GSD) owns and operates the Goleta Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) located at One William Moffett Place, near the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport (SBA), in an unincorporated coastal area of Santa Barbara County, California. GSD is a special services district that provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to residents and businesses within the Goleta Valley.

The GSD WRRF has an annual average design flow capacity to treat 7.64 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater, but it is currently treating an annual average flow of approximately 4.9 MGD. The treatment process at WRRF begins with bar screens to remove large debris, as well as aerated grit tanks and two cyclone separators to remove grit and sand. The wastewater then flows into three primary clarifiers for solids removal prior to secondary treatment. The secondary treatment at WRRF includes biofilters, three aeration basins, and four secondary clarifiers.

Currently, GSD's WRRF has the following solids and gas handling process for treatment of solids recovered from wastewater. Primary Sludge (PS) coming from primary clarifiers is pumped to the digestion process. Waste activated sludge (WAS) generated from secondary treatment is thickened to 6% solids using two screw thickeners; the resulting thickened WAS (TWAS) is pumped to the digestion process. Combined PS and TWAS solids are stabilized in three mesophilic anaerobic digesters (MADs), operated in parallel. Digested biosolids are dewatered by two screw presses and then loaded onto trucks for transport off-site. A small portion of the dewatered biosolids is diverted into sludge drying beds for further stabilization to become a Class A product. Biogas produced in the digesters is burned in boilers to provide hot water for heating the digesters and to supply other heating needs at the WRRF. Biogas that is not required for heating is flared through the waste gas burner.

A condition assessment conducted in 2016 indicated that some of the unit processes at WRRF are nearing the end of their service life and would need rehabilitation and replacement soon. A Biosolids and Energy Strategic Plan (BESP) was developed in August 2019 by Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen), which evaluated biosolids unit processes in detail and recommended upgrading existing facilities to mitigate regulatory uncertainties affecting biosolids disposition, to diversify beneficial use outlets, and to approach energy neutrality for the facility. The BESP summarized the capacity evaluation for the existing solids processes, including digesters considering the current and anticipated future flows and loads, and identified the need to build a new digester to maintain firm capacity. Firm capacity was defined as the ability to maintain full treatment capacity with the largest single process unit out of service. The BESP also included assessment of the High Strength Waste (HSW) co-digestion and the feasibility and benefits of reaching energy neutrality. BESP provided GSD with a suite of improvement options for the WRRF, each with its own independent utility and purpose.

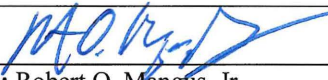
Goleta Sanitary District is proposing to implement a Solids Handling Improvement Project (SHIP) at its Water Resource Recovery Facility (Project), which includes the construction of a thermal dryer facility. The addition of the thermal dryer facility will decrease the amount of hauled sludge, as well as increase the quality of biosolids produced, thus increasing the potential for beneficial reuse of the product. The proposed Project includes the following components:

- A thermal dryer, which will heat dewatered sludge to transform it into Class A biosolids;
- A thermal heater system, which will use natural gas to provide heat to operate the thermal dryer, with the option to convert to using biogas produced by the digesters in the future, when gas production increases;
- Loadout facilities, intended to load Class A biosolids into trucks for removal from the site;
- Associated civil, structural, electrical and instrumentation work; and
- A fire pump for a fire suppression system at the new buildings.

The Goleta Sanitary District is the Lead Agency undertaking the project. No other private applicant, nor any other person undertaking an activity is receiving financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the project, nor is any person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the project.

This is to advise that the (☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency) has approved the above described project on December 1, 2025, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                | The project [ <input type="checkbox"/> will <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> will not] have a significant effect on the environment.                                                          |                                                                                                              |
| 2.                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> An Environmental Impact Report was prepared and certified for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency. |                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.                       |                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and reflects the independent judgment of the Lead Agency.  |                                                                                                              |
| 3.                                                                                                                                                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitigation measures [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> were <input type="checkbox"/> were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.           |                                                                                                              |
| 4.                                                                                                                                                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plan [ <input type="checkbox"/> was <input type="checkbox"/> was not] adopted for this project.                         |                                                                                                              |
| 5.                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> A Statement of Overriding Considerations [ <input type="checkbox"/> was <input type="checkbox"/> was not] adopted for this project.                                     |                                                                                                              |
| 6.                                                                                                                                                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Findings [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> were <input type="checkbox"/> were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.                              |                                                                                                              |
| This is to certify that the Final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to General Public at: |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | Custodian:<br><br>Goleta Sanitary District                                                                                                                                                       | Location:<br><br>1 William Moffett Place, Goleta CA 93117-3901<br>805-967-4519<br>swagner@goletasanitary.org |

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| Date: 12/03/2025 | <br>Name: Robert O. Mangus, Jr.,<br>Title: Clerk of the Board |
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| <b>Clerk's File Stamp:</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br> |
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Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.  
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.