Notice of Determination

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
P. O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

☒ County Clerk
County of Santa Barbara
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

From: Goleta Sanitary District
One William Moffett Place
Goleta, CA 93117

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

Project Title:

Biosolids and Energy Phase 1 Project

State Clearinghouse Number: (If submitted to Clearinghouse)	**Contact Person:**	**Area Code / Telephone / Extension:**
2022040242	Steve Wagner	(805)967-4519

Project Location (include county)

APN 071-200-024, 071-200-019, 071-200-003. In the City of Goleta, County of Santa Barbara.

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 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 9.6 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater but is currently treating an annual average flow of approximately 4.9 MGD. The treatment process at the 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 the WRRF includes biofilters, three aeration basins, and four secondary clarifiers.

An assessment of the WRRF conducted in 2016 indicated that some of the unit processes at the GSD 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 summarized the recommended approach to upgrade existing facilities to mitigate regulatory uncertainties affecting biosolids disposition, diversify beneficial use outlets, and 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.

To properly utilize digestion capacity and biogas production while leveraging existing assets, a wide variety of technologies were evaluated and screened. Alternatives were evaluated based on economic and non-economic factors. Each of the proposed alternatives needed to achieve the main objectives of securing digester capacity and utilizing biogas production. The BESP also included an assessment of the High Strength Waste (HSW) co-digestion and the feasibility and benefits of reaching energy neutrality. Although

not part of the currently planned Project, HSW processing may be implemented in the future as funding becomes available.

The proposed Project is an initial step in GSD's long-term program for achieving energy neutrality by implementing technologies and strategies to utilize digester gas production and energy recovery. The BESP technology evaluation performed by Hazen for GSD identified a combined heat and power (CHP) system with an internal combustion engine as the most desirable biogas utilization technology and addition of a new anaerobic digester as the most feasible option to achieve firm digestion capacity.

The primary components of the currently proposed Project consist of:

One new digester with a capacity of 550,000 gallons, which will replace existing Digester 1. The new digester will include the installation of auxiliary equipment, including digester mixing apparatus, digester cover, and digester heating elements (heat exchanger, piping, etc.). This new digester is designed to allow sufficient capacity for the plant if any of the existing digesters, including the largest digester (i.e., Digester 3), goes out of service.

A CHP system featuring one new 160-kilowatt (kW) generator set that will be fueled by digester gas. Waste heat from the CHP engine will be used to heat the digesters. Additionally, the two existing digester gas booster blowers will be replaced with two new blowers to match the engine.

A biogas pretreatment system to reduce hydrogen sulfide (H2S), siloxanes, and moisture in the digester gas used to fuel the CHP engine.

Modifications are not proposed to any of the existing combustion devices, including the existing boilers and flares; to the permitted digester gas throughput to the combustion units; or to the wastewater treatment capacity of the GSD WRRF at this time.

Although GSD is considering a long-term strategy that may involve other changes to the WRRF operations, those changes are not defined in sufficient detail for environmental assessment at this time. Therefore, the proposed Project consists of the above components only, and additional changes may require additional separate environmental review when those plans are defined.

This is to advise that the Goleta Sanitary Authority has approved the above described project on June 6, 2022.

☒ Lead Agency ☐ Responsible Agency

and has made the following determinations regarding the above described projects.

1. The project (☐ will ☒ will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☒ A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
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3. Mitigation measures (☒ were ☐ were not) made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations (☐ was ☒ was not) adopted for the EIR.
5. Findings (☒ were ☐ were not) made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Initial Study with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at the CWA offices, located at 53462 Enterprise Way, Coachella CA 92236.

Signature (Public Agency)	June 6, 2022 Date	General Manager / District Engineer Title