



# LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT

**LWD Leadership**  
 Judy Hanson, President  
 Elaine Sullivan, Vice President  
 Allan H. Juliussen, Director  
 David Kulchin, Director  
 Donald Omsted, Director  
 Paul J. Bushee, General Manager

## Downstream

Summer 2017 Newsletter

### LWD Open House - Saturday, September 23, 2017

Over the past year, we've been working to create more channels of communication with the most important people to us - our ratepayers! Our public outreach efforts have been directed at ensuring you know what's happening with the District and how it might impact your daily routine, as well as delivering updates on our work and staff's professional development. At the end of the day, seeing is believing, so we're excited to take our outreach efforts to a more personal level and invite **YOU and your family** to come out for some food and fun, and to learn about the ways Leucadia Wastewater District and some incredible

local organizations work to protect our watershed - from our neighborhoods, to our lagoons, to our beaches. We're excited to host some of our fellow wastewater agencies, non-profit organizations, and local businesses at **1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA on Saturday, September 23rd from 10 am - 2 pm**. We'll have a fun - filled day for you and your family including tours, equipment demonstrations, food, prize drawings, and giveaways. You'll get to see a demonstration of our pipe cleaning technologies, and learn about what we think is the best job around - protecting our neighborhoods and beaches from sewage spills!

#### Featured Booths



#### Special Thanks to Our Amazing Event Sponsors and Participants!

Opus Bank • Starbucks • Palomar Water • Wildcoast • Olivenhain Municipal Water District  
 Encina Wastewater Authority • I Love a Clean San Diego • Shell/Circle K • Gelson's • Evoqua Water Technologies  
 Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation • Southern Engineering • Base9 Consulting • City of Encinitas • League of Women Voters

#### LWD's Open House!

1960 La Costa Avenue  
 Carlsbad, CA 92009  
 Saturday, September 23rd  
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

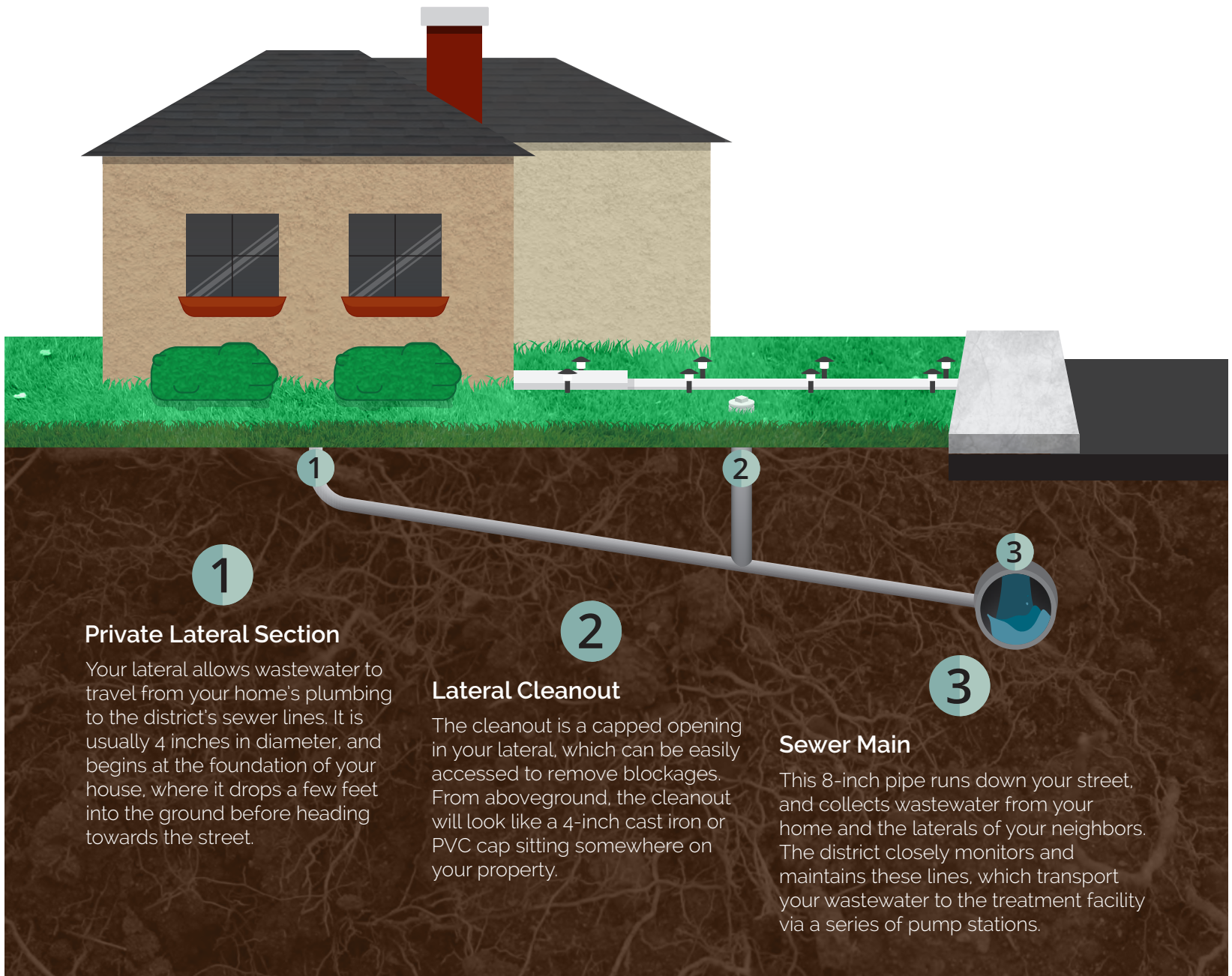




## Lateral Grant Program

Beneath your house is a pipe that delivers your wastewater to our sewer main, called a lateral line. Below is a graphic detailing the key parts of a lateral line.

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining and repairing their lateral up to the point where it connects to the sewer main. To help lower the cost of maintenance, LWD offers a grant program that will reimburse 50% of the repair cost, up to a maximum of \$3,000. For more information on our Lateral Grant Program, please visit [lwwd.org](http://lwwd.org) under the Customers tab.



## Sewer Service Fees & Two New Ordinances

As part of our Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, our rates will remain the same at \$28.64 per month for a single-family home. We've been able to maintain this low rate while still investing almost \$6 million in infrastructure improvements during the past year. We're particularly proud of this as it is a reflection of careful management of our assets and financial resources. Our ratepayers are the ones who benefit the most, as our service area continues to have one of the lowest sewer rates in San Diego County!

The District recently revised two important ordinances that impact fees we may charge customers. Any new homes or businesses need to pay a one-time capacity fee when connecting to our sewer system. We recently reviewed the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) factor and capacity fee schedule to ensure compliance with current laws. No changes were made to the capacity fee per EDU rate. The second ordinance updated the District's administrative citation process and added fines for illegal dumping into the sewer system.



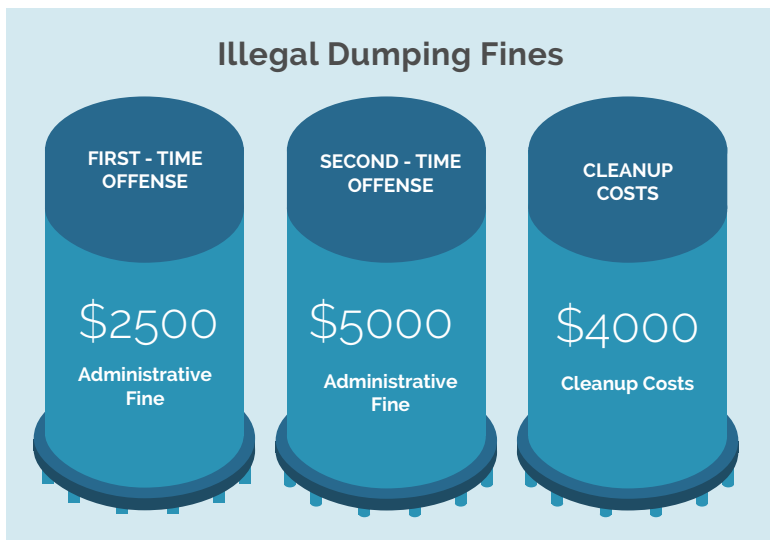
## Fines for Illegal Dumping

From November through June, we had 3 incidents where pool installers disposed of their wet concrete and pool plaster down their customers' cleanouts. Our Field Service Technicians later found the hardened concrete in our sewer lines during their inspections and removed it. Each time we find and remove obstructions like this, it costs the District about \$4,000 in labor, materials, and equipment use, not to mention the potential for large regulatory fines to our District if there was ever a sewage spill.

As of July 2017, we will begin assessing the following fines to anyone found to have illegally dumped waste into the sewer system:



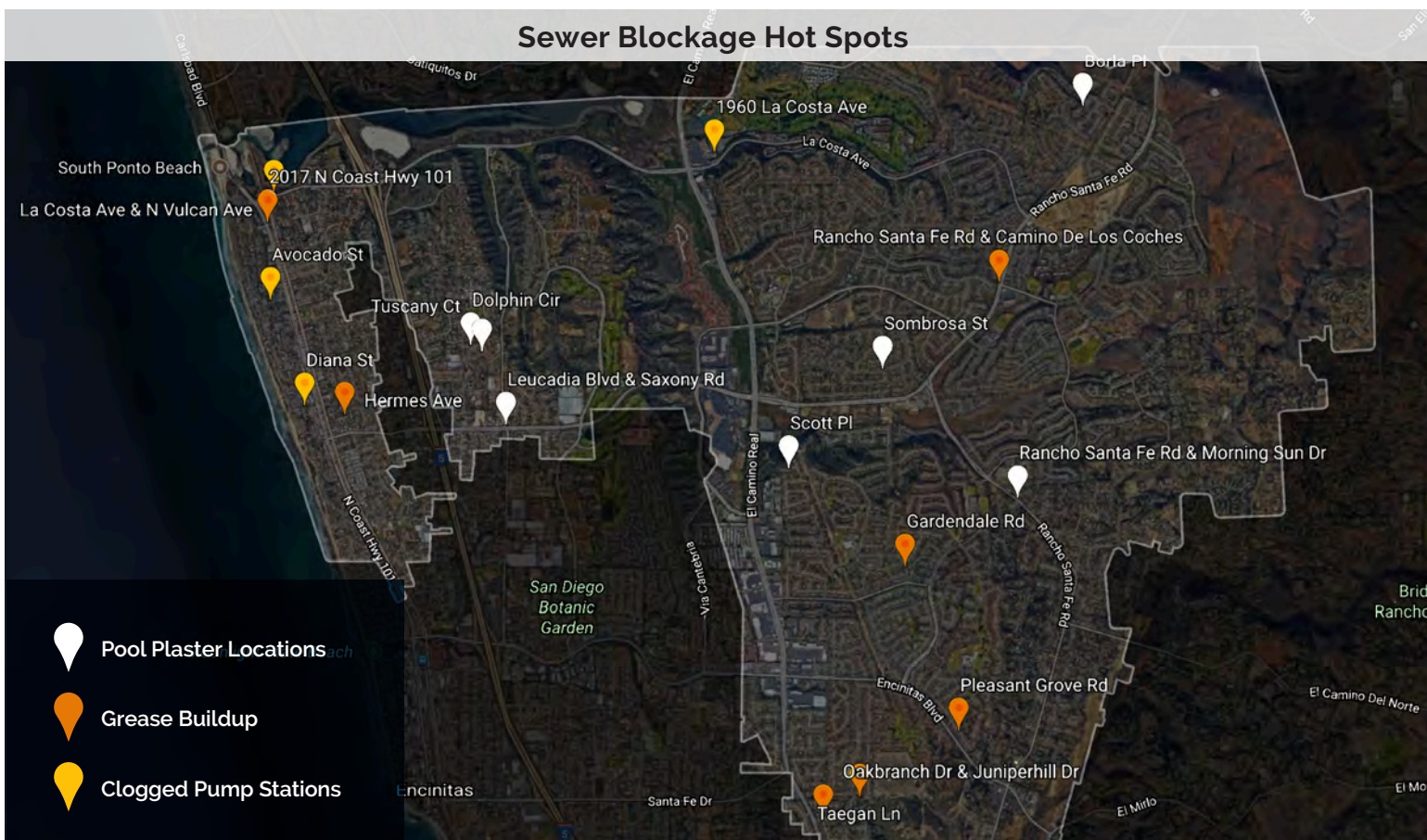
Hardened pool plaster removed from LWD sewer pipes.



## Only You Can Prevent Sewer Blockages

Our Field Services team continues an impressive volume of monitoring and cleaning work throughout our sewer pipelines. However, in the course of this work, we've found some recurring problems that could have quickly escalated into sewage spills.

In addition to pool construction waste, the major offenders continue to be wet wipes, rags, other debris flushed down toilets, and buildups of FOG (fats, oils, and grease) dumped down kitchen drains. We've identified 18 "hot spots" of grease buildup, pump stations that are regularly clogged with wipes and rags, and pool plaster locations as shown in the map below:





## Facility Improvements

Capital projects to improve our infrastructure are integral components that ensure the safety and integrity of our sewage system. Below is a recap of two recently completed capital infrastructure projects:

### Leucadia Force Main Replacement

One of our larger pipeline projects this year has been the Leucadia Force Main West Section Replacement project. Testing by our project team uncovered significant internal corrosion in a section of this older 24" metal pipe. This section of pipe was dug up and replaced with high - grade plastic pipe (PVC), along La Costa Avenue between Pacific Coast Highway and the I-5 Freeway. A portion of the pipe was relocated further away from the Batiquitos Lagoon to protect it from the slow erosion of the bluff. We project that this new pipeline will last over 50 years.

### Village Park 5 Pump Station

Another significant project completed this summer was the replacement of the Village Park 5 (VP5) pump station. Originally constructed in 1974, it is located in the City of Encinitas on the west side of Encinitas Boulevard, just south of Willow-spring Drive. In 2014 we completed a pump station assessment and VP5 was scheduled for replacement due to its age, the fact that spare parts are no longer available, and to provide a safer working environment for staff. The new VP5 is easier to maintain and operate, and it's more energy efficient.



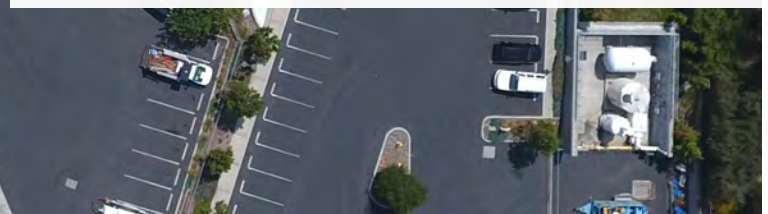
The Force Main Project Team lays down a 24" diameter PVC pipe along La Costa Avenue. Made of chemically stable polyvinyl chloride, the new pipeline will last 50+ years.



## Saving Money from the Sun

In order to save money and reduce emissions, we have purchased and installed over 400 solar panels on our administrative and operations buildings, as well as our pump stations. In addition to enabling us to generate some of our electricity from the sun, this investment allows us to change and reduce our SDG&E rate structure. The District is currently completing a project to separate the administrative and operations electrical meters from the pumping facilities, qualifying the District for lower electrical rates. **A new rate schedule means potential savings of nearly \$35,000 per year and is projected to pay for itself in under 3 years.**

Reducing electricity rates and utilizing renewable energy is good for our ratepayers and good for the planet. It will help lower our operating costs, so we can continue to offer one of the lowest sewer rates in San Diego County!





## Teacher Grants

A mainstay of our public outreach efforts continues to be helping our teachers educate local kids. Two local teachers received grants this spring to help enhance their educational plans:



El Camino Creek Elementary School students learn about capturing and reusing rainwater.

### Functional Food Production Garden

*Curtis Fillmore – La Costa Canyon High School*

Students of La Costa Canyon High School came together to build an on - campus garden, educating students about food production and sourcing. In collaboration with the culinary arts program, these efforts provide hands - on education about sourcing local and organic spices and foods, the fundamental aspects of composting and gardening, and mentor students with special needs.

### LWD's Driving Safety Record

A large part of running a wastewater agency that covers an area as large as Leucadia's involves vehicles, and lots of them. Every day we navigate the cities with a variety of vehicles, many carrying specialized equipment and supplies to keep the District's pipelines clear and maintained. These vehicles are heavy and not always the easiest to drive, sometimes requiring special training and experience.

That is why Leucadia Wastewater District is proud to say that we have a 3-year record in driving safely without a vehicle accident. Through proper training, safety procedures, and monitoring, we're able to help significantly reduce road mishaps and equipment damage, saving us time, money, and frustration. We are very proud of our District's field staff, whose care and dedication while performing maintenance and inspections throughout our community has led to our excellent safety record.

### Rain Garden Educational Pathway

*Jenny Smith – El Camino Creek Elementary*

With a plan to clean up their watershed, over 20 students at El Camino Creek Elementary applied to win a grant to help redirect water and stop debris from flowing off a hillside and plugging up parking lot drains. This project will help educate the 700+ students from El Camino Creek about how to prevent ocean water pollution by utilizing natural resources.



## Recycled Water






We are one of ten water and wastewater agencies collaborating to increase the amount of recycled water produced and distributed in North San Diego County. As a group, we're working at the regional, state, and federal level to provide the following benefits to North County. The Coalition has received \$4.95 million to develop integrated

wastewater reuse projects from Del Mar to Oceanside and east to Escondido. By working together, these agencies are demonstrating a commitment to provide a reliable, drought - proof source of water for the region and reduce discharge of wastewater into the ocean.

## North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition

Recently Approved for Federal Funding

### Coalition Objectives

-  Produce 72 MGD of recycled water
-  Improve 9 treatment plants
-  Create 7 potable reuse plants
-  Create 7,000 jobs
-  Construct 90 miles of recycled water pipeline

### LWD's System Overview

-  3.9 million gallons of wastewater per day treated
-  5,000 manholes
-  18 miles of pressurized pipelines
-  214,000 gallons of recycled water per day produced
-  200 miles of gravity - fed pipeline
-  10 pump stations
-  62,000 people in 16 square miles
-  19 employees
-  1 recycled water treatment plant

### Facilities Overview

**Gafner Water Recycling Facility**  
Pump Stations include Rancho Verde, Village Park (2), Encinitas Estates, Diana, Avocado, Batiquitos, Saxony, Leucadia & La Costa

### Semi-Annual Performance

2134 days of no lost work  
706 million gallons treated  
38.7 million gallons recycled  
137.6 miles of pipe cleaned  
39.6 miles of pipe inspected

## Standout Achievements: Staff Awards and Professional Certifications

A highly professional organization attracts the best and the brightest in its field. We're fortunate to celebrate these individuals, and the collective achievements of the people who make LWD run as well as it does. We'd like to share some of the impressive achievements of our staff from the Winter and Spring of 2017.



**Rick Easton** won the California Water Environment Association Operator of the Year, at both the San Diego Chapter and State level.



**Hugo Gonzalez** earned the California Water Environment Association's Collections System Maintenance Grade 2 Certification.



**Curney Russel** earned the California State Water Resources Control Board's Treatment Operator T1 Certification.



**The District** won the California Association of Sanitation Agency's Small Agency Public Outreach and Education Project of the Year Award.



**The District** won a Certificate of Award for Outstanding Financial Reporting from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (8th year).



**The District** was recertified as a District of Distinction by the California Special Districts Association.



**The District** won the California Water Environment Association's San Diego Local section **2016 Community Engagement & Outreach Project of the Year Award**.



**One year without a sewer spill**



**No vehicle accidents** for three years





1960 La Costa Avenue  
Carlsbad, CA 92009

# Downstream

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**Leaders in  
Environmental  
Protection**