

Downstream

Winter 2017 Newsletter

Facilities Overview

Gafner Water Treatment Facility

Pump Stations include Rancho Verde, Village Park (2), Encinitas Estates, Diana, Avocado, Batiqitos, Saxony, Leucadia & La Costa

System Overview

-  3.7 million gallons of wastewater per day
-  425,000 gallons of recycled water per day (equivalent to 2,983 homes' annual use)
-  62,000 people in 16 square miles
-  5,000 manholes
-  200 miles of gravity-fed pipeline
-  19 employees
-  18 miles of pressurized pipelines
-  10 pump stations
-  1 recycled water treatment plant

Semi-Annual Performance

5th Straight Year – no lost work time
 692 million gallons of wastewater treated
 78 million gallons of recycled water produced

130 miles of pipeline cleaned
 60 miles of pipeline video inspected
 \$3.9 million contracted to SoCal businesses

Keeping the Pipes Clear and Free

The work of a Field Services operator with a wastewater treatment agency is a bit like exploratory surgery. Our team spends their workdays surveying our infrastructure under the streets, one manhole at a time using specially mounted live cameras. These critical monitoring efforts let us wind our way through the sewer pipes hunting down obstructions and blockages that threaten to block up our system.

Last spring, our Field Services team discovered pool plaster built up in a section of our sewer lines. Since then we've found plaster in two other sections. In some sections, the hardened plaster blocked off up to 50% of the pipe's diameter which can cause a backup and spill.

These blockages are caused when a pool installer or subcontractor decides to pour leftover cement from a pool

project into a sewer lateral in your yard or directly down a manhole. While it saves them a little money, it ends up costing LWD and, potentially, our customers a whole lot more.

Proper disposal involves dewatering the concrete slurry and taking the hardened concrete remnants to a landfill or recycling facility for reuse as aggregate. Contractors can rent proper disposal equipment for less than one thousand dollars. Fixing one blocked pipe costs LWD, and ultimately our ratepayers, thousands of dollars in man-hours, equipment, fuel, and materials.



Please help combat this problem and prevent potential spills or a backup into your home by ensuring your pool contractor properly disposes of their construction waste.

From the Sinks to the Streets!

Laterals connect your home to the sewer system. Even though you're responsible for their care, we want to be sure you don't ever have a backup in your house. If your lateral is damaged, we offer up to a 50% match (maximum of \$3,000) for repairs through the LWD Lateral Grants program. Apply now at www.lwwd.org under the Customers tab!

Below: Pile of hardened pool plaster and a tangle of roots cleared from LWD's sewer lines over the last 6 months.



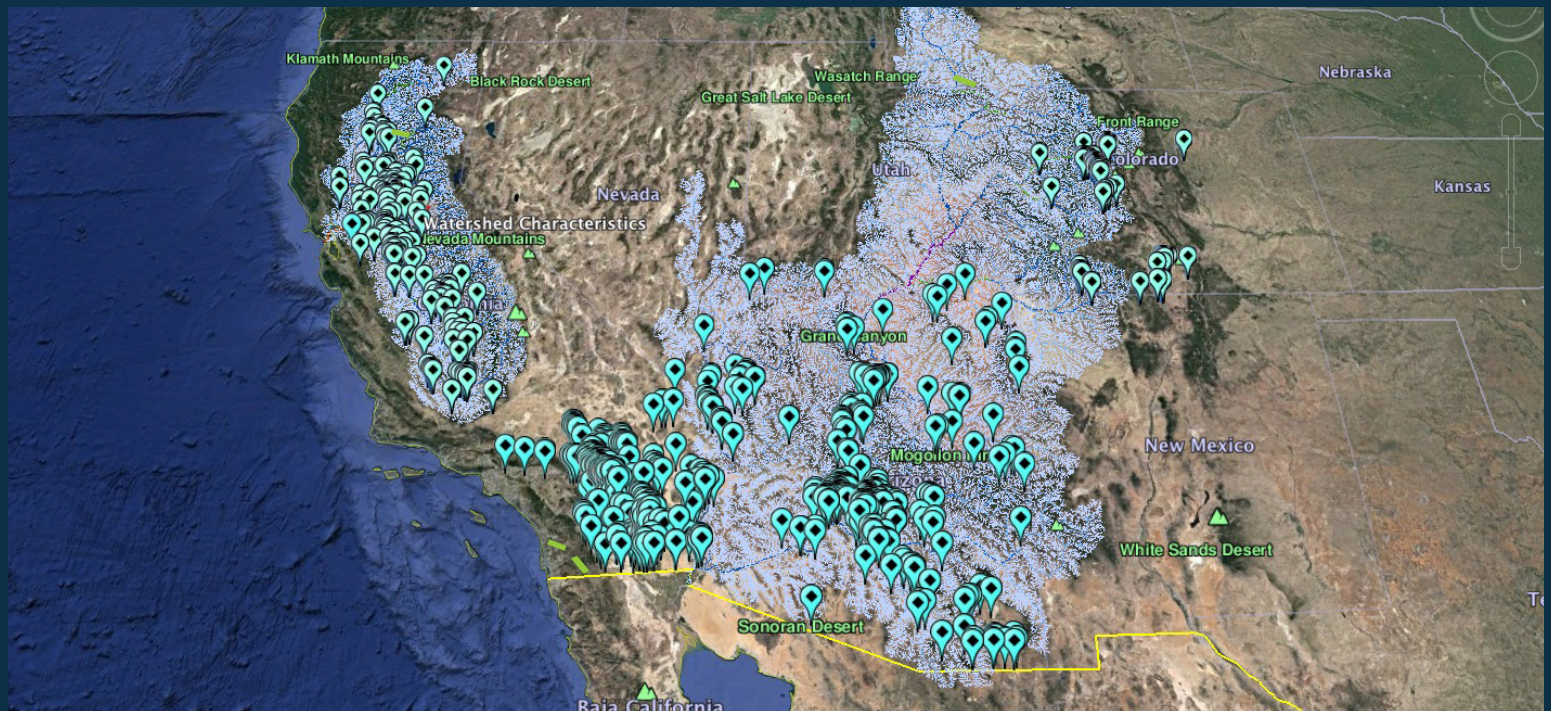
No Wipes Down the Pipes

We're excited to report that our Field Services team continues to see a significant reduction in the number of wet wipes in our system. However, we can't rest easy until we eliminate ALL wet wipes from the sewer system! They get caught up in the pumps, in screens, and in wet wells at our pump stations, and on roots, cracks, or other obstructions in lateral lines and our pipelines. They can also accumulate Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), and other debris that is improperly poured down the drain. Any of this could cause a spill. So if you like clean beaches, low and consistent rates, and clean neighborhoods, please remember to do your part and use a trash can!



Making Pure Water

In a previous edition of the Downstream Newsletter, we ran an article about the hot topic of water recycling and reuse. It covered our purple pipe system, and the potential for indirect and direct potable reuse (DPR). These are approaches to purifying wastewater and using it to enhance the local drinking water supply. In 2010, the Department of Public Health was given a mandate to evaluate potential regulations for DPR by 2016. Wastewater agencies and regulators from around California are working to create a uniform regulatory structure and safety protocols that will let us purify new drinking water locally.



Above is a map to give perspective on our current water supply. The shaded regions are all the streams and rivers in the Colorado River and Sacramento/San Joaquin Watersheds - where over 80% of our drinking water comes from. The turquoise pins are the active wastewater and stormwater permit holders who discharge into those rivers before we get our drinking water. What happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas. Water exists in a natural cycle, and water reuse technology like DPR can add a new and safe local water supply for our semi-arid region.

Sacramento River - 19% of All San Diego's Water
Population Served: 25 million people
Rain and Snow Water: 22 million acre-feet/year
Wastewater Effluent: 843,900 acre-feet/year
Pollution / Overflow / Stormwater Permits Issued: 4,800

Colorado River - 64% of All San Diego's Water
Population Served: 33 million people
Rain and Snow Water: 16 million acre-feet/year
Wastewater Effluent (CA only): 49,850 acre-feet/year
Pollution / Overflow / Stormwater Permits Issued: 3,000

Let No Waste Go to Waste

As part of our commitment to recycling and reusing our resources, we send our wastewater to a local partner of ours, the Encina Wastewater Authority. Through an advanced process, they turn nutrient-rich human waste into a fertilizer called PureGreen.

Many local golf courses and orchards use PureGreen as a natural alternative to chemical and organic fertilizers. To help ensure the integrity of this product, they have a pretreatment program in place that monitors the waste streams to ensure safety; however, we still need your help!



Only Flush the 3P's (Pee, Poop, and [toilet] Paper)!

Here's what to do with the rest:

Chemicals, Solvents, and Paint

Local drop-offs are listed at www.lwwd.org under Community Info - Disposing Oils, Chemicals, and Medications.

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)

Pour hot grease into an empty metal can to cool and harden, then toss into your trash.



Wastewater pipe filled with FOG from residential and commercial buildings.

Plastics

Latex gloves and food packages, applicators, Q-tips, and other plastics and latex go in the trash or recycling bin



Rubber gloves found in the sewer pipes in Encinitas.

Construction Waste

Goes with the contractor inside a dumpster, slurry dewatering unit, or a dump truck.



While a town crier may have been the cornerstone of public communication strategy in times past, our public outreach efforts are a bit more diverse.

Going Digital We use a variety of tools to keep you posted on what we're up to, including our website, targeted local Facebook posts, door hangers, press releases, online maps, and road signs. Sign up for e-newsletters at the bottom right of www.lwwd.org.

Surf's Up! We host a live, ad-free surf camera at the top right corner of www.lwwd.org where you can see conditions at and around Ponto Beach.


Grants Now Available Our Teacher Grant program has delivered grants to 28 teachers since 2008, and helped improve the educational experience in our local schools for over 6,000 kids. Apply now under the Community Info tab at www.lwwd.org.

Beyond the Books Tours of our Gafner Water Reclamation Facility are the cornerstone of our efforts to share the kind of jobs, work, and research opportunities available in the environmental protection, wastewater, and water fields.

Constant Improvement

Our underground TV inspection and pressurized water cleaning efforts often reveal wear and tear at various points in our well-established system. To ensure consistent operation and predictable rates, we regularly inspect, repair, or replace our pipes and pump stations.

Here are a few statistics about projects that we have completed to prevent spills.

-  60 manholes relined
-  8 emergency spot repairs
-  3.3 miles of new pipeline
-  1.1 miles of lined pipeline
-  1 rehabilitated pump station

Projects Under Way and Completed

Pipe Replacement

During routine camera inspections, we discovered defects in our pipeline at Cerro Street and Encinitas Blvd. In a 3-night operation we opened up the road, removed and replaced a 70' section of pipe, and didn't interrupt traffic!

Batiquitos Lagoon Solar Installation

We recently installed a small solar system that enabled us to switch our SDG&E rate at this pump station. This small investment and rate change saves \$3,600 per month, and will pay for itself in 10 months!

Leucadia Force Main Replacement

An old iron pipeline transports wastewater west under La Costa Ave to the PCH. Our inspections revealed corrosion west of I-5 under La Costa Ave which, if not repaired, could result in a sewage spill. We anticipate starting repair work this winter.

Village Park Pump Station

Built in 1974, this pump station is at the end of its useful life, and needs safety improvements. We will be completely replacing it with a new pump station to improve operation, safety, and access. We plan to have it completed in August 2017.

Visit our website or Facebook page for Construction Updates that might affect traffic.

Welcome to our New Employees!

New Team Members join our efforts to Protect the Pacific



Jennifer Gabelein, Administrative Specialist

Jennifer graduated from the University of San Diego in 2009, where she studied Sociology, Leadership, and Non-Profit Management. She volunteers with Young Life and Daybreak Church, and has helped build homes for families in Mexico. She loves people, our beaches, and the natural world. Jennifer enjoys working at LWD "because I have the opportunity to brighten people's day and help protect our local environment."



Curney Russell, Field Services Technician in Training

Curney came to LWD after serving as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps for 11 years. He completed 2 combat deployments to Iraq and 1 to Afghanistan. When he decided to transition to civilian life, he wanted to work with a small organization that cares about its employees. Curney tells us he has found a community and brotherhood at LWD and on the Field Services team similar to that of the Marine Corps. With their support, he quickly learned our system and earned his first technical certification in 1/2 the required time. He is now preparing for the Water Treatment Certification.

He strives to constantly learn, and is inspired to serve his community quietly, behind the scenes, and in a meaningful way. The most gratifying part of his work is one-on-one interaction with people in the neighborhoods he and the Field Services team work in, so please stop by and say hi!



Richard Duffey, Administrative Services Manager

Richard is a Certified Public Accountant with 40 years of government accounting experience. This includes 25 years of auditing governmental agencies, and he worked as a partner in an accounting firm for 30 years. He joined LWD as an employee in January 2016.

Richard is drawn to the professionalism and dedication of LWD's staff and its leadership. He appreciates the dedication to the community, attention to detail, comradery, and that it is a well-run and highly effective organization. He lives in Carlsbad with his family and enjoys scuba diving and surfing.

Standout Achievements

We recognize the individuals who stand out for their professional achievements, as well as the collective efforts that make our team cohesive and effective. Over the past 6 months we have honored 5 people who push themselves for excellence every day, and we share the regional and statewide recognition given for the collective efforts of our 19 staff members.

Staff Awards



Curney Russell

CWEA Collections System
Maintenance Grade 1



Gabriel Mendez

Associate's Degree in Public Works
Management Level II, Palomar College
LWD 5-year Service Award



Marvin Gonzalez

Certificate of Achievement
in Wastewater Technology
Education, Palomar College



Trisha Hill

LWD 15-year Service Award



Mauricio Avalos

LWD 5-year Service Award

District Awards



5 years without a lost work injury



2 years of no driving accidents with 8 vehicles and 12 people spending over 20,000 hours per year on the road



0 sewage spills for 12 months



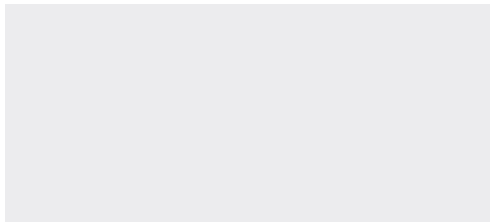
District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation



As co-Founders of the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition, this organization received:

- Commendation by the San Diego Grand Jury for collaboration and leadership
- Finalist for the San Diego County Taxpayers Association Golden Watchdog Award

We hope you enjoyed our semi-annual newsletter! Please follow us on our Facebook page @LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict and email us at info@lwwd.org for construction updates, or to send comments or questions.



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1960 La Costa Avenue
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Leucadia Wastewater District Newsletter
Leaders in Environmental Protection, keeping our
lagoons, beaches, and oceans clean and safe