

# Downstream

Summer 2018 Newsletter



## NO INCREASE in your wastewater rate!

As we enter a new fiscal year at Leucadia Wastewater District, we are excited to announce that our wastewater rates will remain unchanged at \$28.64 per month! We are proud to say that our wastewater rate is one of the lowest in San Diego County.

Since 2017, the District has kept rates flat by carefully managing our maintenance, operations, and capital improvement costs and by maintaining our sewer system in peak operational condition. To help establish the current and future wastewater rates, the District recently updated its Financial Plan and its Asset Management Plan, which

forecast future capital improvement projects and their costs. Both plans are used as a guide to project financial conditions and are used in the financial planning process.

The updated Financial Plan can be read on the District's website in its entirety at [bit.ly/LWDFinancialPlan](http://bit.ly/LWDFinancialPlan).

# CAN IT!

Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Can Cause Sewage Spills!

FOG is one of the realities of wastewater treatment, but it's different than the fog that rolls along the coast bringing us May Gray and June Gloom. When improperly disposed of, FOG builds up in our sewer pipes, similar to what trans fats can do to our arteries. Throughout our service area in Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad, there are several areas that we keep an eye on, as they tend to see the greatest accumulation of FOG. **Please help us reduce the FOG in the sewer lines by putting your fats, oil, and grease in a separate container to cool and throw it out in the trash. The beaches, lagoons, and our Field Services Technicians thank you!**



**Use can toppers to make easy grease containers from most types of cans.**

Email us for a free can topper!  
[info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org)

## Learning by Doing

Providing Grants to Support Water/Recycled Water Science Projects with Local Teachers

Since 2008, the District has granted over \$30,000 to local teachers to help support hands-on environmental education projects with a focus on water resource management, water reuse, or ocean pollution prevention. Every year we offer up to \$5,000 in grants to teachers in our community to help fund these types of projects.



8

YEARS OF GRANTS



\$5k

AWARDED ANNUALLY



\$31k

AWARDED IN TOTAL



25k

STUDENTS IMPACTED



**Drought Tolerant Landscaping by La Costa Canyon High School**

We are excited to announce the 2018 Teacher Grants recipients. The first grant recipient is **June Honsberger from La Costa Canyon High School** and the funds go towards the school's Drought Tolerant Garden at the main entrance of the school. The other recipient is **Martin Chaker from San Dieguito Academy**, and the funds will help towards building a stormwater diversion system at the Academy.

## EXTRA FUNDING FOR TEACHERS!

Have an interest in applying for a grant? We are now accepting applications which can be found at [bit.ly/LWDTeacherGrant](https://bit.ly/LWDTeacherGrant) Send us an email to be added to our notification list at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org)

## Maintaining Sewer Lines Through Easements

The District maintains over 200 miles of gravity sewer lines. Some of these sewer lines run through easements on private property. A couple times per year, we will notify customers through a front door hanger about upcoming sewer line easement inspections. If you have a sewer line easement on your property, we will coordinate with you to schedule a time to inspect and clear any obstructions that may be inside the sewer line in your easement. Sewer line easements are generally checked twice a year or sometimes more frequently. In particular, we pay attention to areas known to accumulate roots, grit, or other debris.

With over 800 easements in the District's service area, sewer lines are inspected through manholes, which may or may not be on your property. Manholes are a critically important part of our sewer system, allowing our Field Services Technicians to access, clean out, and inspect our gravity sewer lines. Regular maintenance of easements helps us prevent a potential sewer spill from occurring on your property or nearby. If you receive a notice from us, please contact us at the number on the door hanger to schedule your sewer line easement inspection.

**Continued on Next Page**



## Maintaining Sewer Lines Through Easements, Continued



### Unearthing a Manhole that was Buried in Carlsbad.

Recently, our Field Services Team found and unearthed the manhole seen above. It was buried and hidden under 6 feet of fill alongside a local apartment complex.

If you have a manhole in or near your yard or are planning an upgrade to your landscaping, please be sure to keep it free and clear of obstructions. We are available at [760-753-0155](tel:760-753-0155) or [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) to answer any questions about access, maintenance, or in an emergency.

**By working together with our customers, the District can prevent sewage spills in our neighborhoods, on your property, or near Leucadia's and Carlsbad's lagoons and beaches.**



**LEUCADIA  
WASTEWATER  
DISTRICT**

---

**Easement  
Inspection**

---

Your Field Service Technician is:  
*LWD Staff*

---

Please Contact me at:  
*(760) 753-0155*

---

Notes:  
*Sample Door Hanger*

---

(See Reverse for Details)

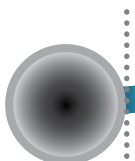
## Our Sewer Lateral Grant Program

The District offers a financial assistance program that can reimburse you for 50% of your sewer lateral repair costs, up to a maximum of \$3,000. This program is geared to help with necessary sewer lateral repairs due to root intrusion, cracks, or potential blockages. Please note that qualifying sewer repair work includes the installation of lateral liners and/or replacing existing sewer pipe. A cleaning of the private lateral does not qualify for the program. **The owner is responsible for their lateral all the way up to the District's sewer main.**

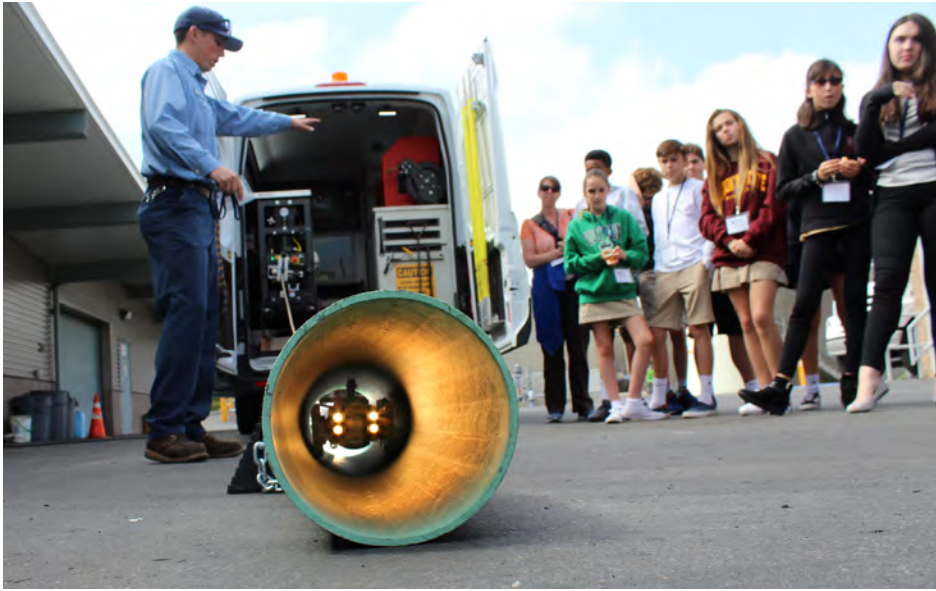
Since 2008, the District has granted 156 applications for a total of \$340,000 worth of Lateral Grants. Visit [bit.ly/LatGrant](https://bit.ly/LatGrant) for more information.

**Sewer Main**  
(District's Property)

**Lateral Line**  
(Owner's Property)



## Schedule a Tour of Our Facilities!



**Above:** Rick Easton of our Field Services team demonstrates our pipe-exploring rover, equipped with headlights and a camera, to a class of high school students from Pacific Ridge High School.

The District enjoys the opportunity to provide tours to members of the public, members of the community, local organizations, or schools. Since March 2018, the District has hosted several tours to groups, such as the Solana Beach Eco Rotary Club and Pacific Ridge School. These groups toured the District's Gafner Recycled Water Treatment Facility and the Leucadia Pump Station. The groups learned about how we maintain our infrastructure and biological processes, and how we keep sewage flowing to help prevent sewer spills while protecting homes, neighborhoods, lagoons, and beaches.

Please contact us at [\(760\) 753-0155](tel:7607530155) or email us at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) to schedule a visit!



## Welcome Our New Employee, Mark Brechbiel, as Our Administrative Specialist

If you call or stop by our Administrative office, you will be greeted by Mark our Administrative Specialist. Mark has a diverse professional background ranging from general medical studies to electrical and audio video construction.

For the last nine years he's been involved in customer service and business and property management in the hospitality field. Mark now brings his strong communication and customer service skills to the District.

He loves the passion that all his coworkers have for their job, on top of the support they give him. Mark and his family live in Oceanside, and he enjoys hiking, rock climbing, camping, and skateboarding.

## Check the Surf at Ponto!



Our Batiquitos Pump Station is right across the street from Ponto Beach, and is an excellent location for our Surf Cam! Check the surf, plan your next beach day, or just unplug for a few minutes the next time you need a break from the daily grind.

Visit [bit.ly/PontoSurfCam](https://bit.ly/PontoSurfCam) to see it online. Next time you're out enjoying the beach, please remember to be a good steward and pack out everything you brought in.

## Staff Awards



**Maggie McEniry** received the 15-Year Service Award!

## District Achievements



This is our 9th time receiving the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers **Outstanding Financial Reporting Award**.



Received the award for **District Transparency Certificate of Excellence** from Special District Leadership Foundation



Received an award for **4 years with no District vehicle accidents**



# Capital Projects Under Way or Recently Completed

## 2018 Gravity Pipeline Rehabilitation Project

Throughout this year manholes and sewer pipes in the District's service area are being rehabilitated to prevent sewer spills. The District will use a trenchless rehabilitation method called "Cured-in-Place-Pipe" (CIPP) to complete the work because it is cost-effective and a less intrusive installation method by minimizing the need to dig up the roads. Please see our Facebook page for updates on this project.



## Completion of Gafner Recycled Water Plant Improvement Project

The Gafner Recycled Water Plant project was completed in early Spring 2018. The project included several improvements to the plant's pumps, valves, and electrical systems. These improvements allow the District to provide the Omni La Costa Resort South Golf Course with recycled water to irrigate its turf. The project also improves its safety and compliance requirements.



## Upcoming Project: Leucadia Pump Station Rehabilitation Project

The Leucadia Pump Station is located at the District's headquarters and is one of the District's largest pump stations. It pumps approximately 2.8 million gallons of wastewater per day through our force mains to the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility. Engineers have evaluated the condition of the pump station and determined that it requires new pumps, valves, and other hardware. Rehabilitation of this pump station will allow it to run more efficiently, which will help reduce electrical costs and odors. The new system and hardware are estimated to last 10 to 15 years.



## Pitching In to Protect Our Local Environment

One of the lagoons that the District strives to protect is the Batiquitos Lagoon. It is a beautiful local area that runs from El Camino Real west along the north end of La Costa Avenue to Ponto Beach. The lagoon is one of few remaining tidal wetlands on California's southern coast and is designated as an ecological reserve. The area is managed by the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation, which focuses on the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the local environment of the Lagoon. The Foundation has been managing this area for over thirty-five years and this is made possible by generous local donations and volunteers from our community.

If you are looking for an opportunity for yourself, your family, or your coworkers to help protect this beautiful area, you can lend a hand with trail maintenance the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Opportunities to volunteer include removing invasive plants and trash from this sensitive salt marsh habitat and ecological reserve. More information can be found at the Foundation's website at [bit.ly/LWDBatiquitos](http://bit.ly/LWDBatiquitos)



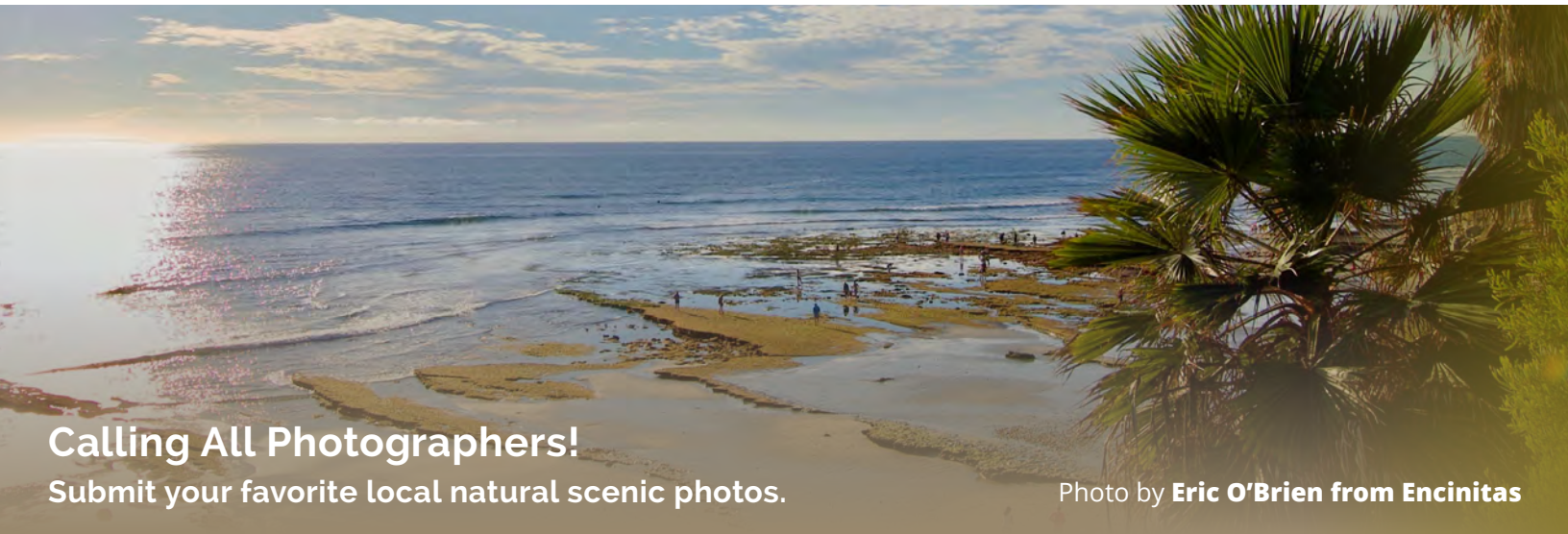
Batiquitos Lagoon  
Conservancy Headquarters

## Downstream

Semi-Annual Newsletter - Summer 2018

We hope you enjoyed our semi-annual newsletter! Please follow us on our Facebook page [@LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict](#) for construction and traffic updates and other local wastewater information, or email us at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org)

To subscribe and receive this newsletter digitally, please go to [bit.ly/LWDdigital](http://bit.ly/LWDdigital)



### Calling All Photographers!

Submit your favorite local natural scenic photos.

Photo by **Eric O'Brien from Encinitas**

We loved the photos the community submitted in response to our last Downstream newsletter so we are asking for more! Please submit your favorite pictures from Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad by tagging a photo on

Facebook with #LWDPhoto or by email to [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) and we may feature your photo(s) in an upcoming social post or newsletter. We will give recognition to any photo we use in any of our postings or newsletters.