



# LWD's Year in Review

## Fiscal Year 2020 Successes

[ The District's Fiscal Year 2020 ran from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 ]

PHOTO: District Field Services Technicians conducting an easement inspection in the La Costa area.

Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) was certainly one of the most unprecedented and unusual years in the District's history. We are very pleased to report that the District maintained its very high level of performance despite the current COVID emergency, the severe rainstorm events in November and April, and the many other challenges we faced throughout the year. Like many organizations, the District had to adjust to a whole new way of doing business. Our Board of Directors began conducting its public meetings via video and teleconference, all the while meeting the state's open meeting law requirements. Our staff successfully adjusted to working remotely from home and to an alternate work schedule designed to keep our employees and customers safe. Throughout this period, the District was able to safely transport and treat wastewater from our customers' homes and businesses.

In addition to the COVID emergency, the District faced intense storms on Thanksgiving Day and in April. Heavy storms present serious challenges to wastewater agencies, in that stormwater finds its way into the sewer system and can overwhelm it causing sewer spills. During the April 10th storm event, the District recorded its highest peak flows ever. The District operations team's response was excellent,

as we were able to keep all of the wastewater flowing in the pipes. In fact, the District was one of only a few area agencies that did not record a spill that day!

Although we had these challenges, the District had several FY 2020 highlights. They included being recognized for both the **Wastewater Collection System of the Year Award** and for the **Community Engagement Award** by the California Water Environment Association—San Diego Section. In addition, the District was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for its excellent financial reporting and by the California Municipal Treasurers Association for its excellent investment policies.

The District also postponed a scheduled rate increase this spring due to the severe economic impact of the COVID pandemic. Despite this and due to excellent financial planning, the District's finances remain sound and our wastewater service rate remains the **lowest in San Diego County**. We are pleased to report that even with the challenges this past year, the **District was able to maintain a very high level of service** to our customers and continue to provide this service in a very economical manner.



## Leucadia Wastewater District Remembers Longtime Board Member David Kulchin

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our long-standing Board member and community volunteer David Kulchin. Dedicated to public service, Director Kulchin dutifully served on the Leucadia Wastewater District Board of Directors from 1996 to 2020. During his twenty-four years of service, he was a dedicated active member of several committees and served as Board President and Vice President for multiple terms. His contributions to the District and community were abundant and impactful to so many.

Under Director Kulchin's leadership, the District achieved numerous accomplishments. These included, construction upgrades to the Gafner Water Recycling Facility and the new District Headquarters building, and several updates to the District's Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan. Director Kulchin's visionary leadership has helped the District maintain one of the lowest sewer rates in San Diego County while providing an extremely high level of service to the District's customers and maintaining its outstanding record of environmental protection.

Director Kulchin was actively involved in his community, serving on the Board of the Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA Encinitas, Hospice of the North Coast, the Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas Community Advisory Board, and past President of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary, and the Carlsbad Boys and Girls Clubs.

Director Kulchin will be missed by his fellow Board members, staff members, and the community he faithfully served. He will be remembered for his many contributions to the District's success and his love of the community.

## Reminder Do Not Pour Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Down the Kitchen Sink!



### Can It! Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Can Cause a Sewage Backup!

With the holiday season fast approaching, there's sure to be lots of cooking with plenty of oil, so be sure to keep a lid on it—a FOG can lid that is. The correct way to dispose of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) is by letting them cool, pouring them in a can, sealing the can with a lid, then throwing it in the trash. Pouring FOG down your drain can potentially

cause a sewer backup in your home and may lead to a sewer spill. Don't have a lid? Don't fret! Write to us at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) to get your own can topper and celebrate in style while doing your part to protect the local community. Happy holidays from Leucadia Wastewater District!



### Harvest Your Rain, Not Down The Drain

With the rainy season coming up, now is a good time to be water smart. This includes making sure you don't have any illegal connections where rainwater and stormwater may flow into the sewer line. You should also adjust your sprinklers accordingly and take advantage of the opportunity to harvest rainwater with assistance from local rebates from the Solana Center & San Diego County Water Authority.

More information on rain harvesting here: <http://bit.ly/RainwaterHarvest>

More tips on being water smart here: <http://bit.ly/WatersmartTips>

# What Not to Flush

With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, our everyday lives are certainly different. One important, often overlooked, result of the stay-at-home order is that your home's plumbing system is seeing a lot more use. A backup with a sewer "overflow" couldn't happen at a worse time. If it isn't the three- P's, pee, poo, and paper (toilet paper only), it should never be flushed down your toilets. We are aware of an abundance of products that might be labeled as "flushable"; but, as you continue to brave these cautious times, caring for your plumbing is a small but important health and safety consideration. Simply put, "No wipes down the pipes."

Please see our website for a list of other non-flushable items, <http://bit.ly/What2Flush>

In addition to the "flushable" wipes, the District has recently seen pool plaster in the sewer pipes. This substance will harden and potentially clog your sewer lateral or the sewer main causing a backup into your home or a sewer spill. If you are installing a swimming pool or re-plastering it, make sure your contractor doesn't dispose of the excess pool plaster down your sewer line. The District staff are available to answer any questions you may have.

**FLUSH**  
toilet paper

**DO NOT FLUSH**

- wipes
- rag
- dental floss
- cotton swabs
- syringes
- aquarium gravel
- cat litter
- rubber items (i.e., latex gloves)
- cigarette butts
- sanitary napkins
- tampons
- hair
- disposable toilet brushes
- paper towels
- medication/Rx drugs
- clothing

The District also offers financial assistance should your home's lateral connection to our system require actual "repair or replacement". See the District's website for more information, <http://bit.ly/latgrant>



## Now Accepting Teacher Grant Applications!

The District is now accepting Teacher Grant applications for the 2020/2021 school year! Help us get the word out to teachers who can benefit from this program. Submit your Teacher Grant application by the deadline Friday, November 20, 2020. The District anticipates awarding up to three grants of up to \$2,000 each. This will be the District's 12th year helping local teachers by awarding grant funds to support their environmental projects. For a list of the eligible schools that are in our service district, an application, and instructions, check out our Teacher Grant website page at [bit.ly/lwdteachergrant](http://bit.ly/lwdteachergrant). In addition to hands-on projects, the District will accept virtual projects this year due to the current COVID-19 protocols.



## Join a Virtual Tour—Coming Soon

While we miss hosting you at our headquarters in La Costa, we love showing you how our team keeps our sewer operations running 24 hours a day through our videos. Our videos explain how our pump stations work right below our streets, how we recycle water to be reused to irrigate a local golf course, and highlight the team that makes it happen. Keep an eye on our videos channel for existing award-winning films and our upcoming Virtual Tour series.

<https://bit.ly/LWDVideos>

# District Infrastructure Improvement Projects

## Replacing Critical Infrastructure Before it Fails

The District is currently working on several projects to keep our collection system in top working condition and to ensure the safe transmission of wastewater throughout the system. Below is the status of some of our current infrastructure projects.

### LEUCADIA PUMP STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Leucadia Pump Station is the District's second largest pump station. It pumps approximately 3.2 million gallons of wastewater per day to the Encina Wastewater Treatment Plant. The pump station is located at the District's headquarters site and services the southeastern portion of Carlsbad and the eastern portion of Encinitas. The project will include the installation of five new pumps and a permanent emergency pump in an overflow basin. The new equipment will further bolster the District's ability to respond to emergencies and prevent sewer spills. Additionally, the District will install a super-oxygenation system for corrosion prevention, odor control, and safety. Construction started in September 2020 and is expected to be completed by June 2021.

### DIANA PUMP STATION PROJECT

The Diana Pump Station services the west area of Old Leucadia. The station pumps approximately 360 thousand gallons of wastewater per day. This project will upgrade the station's electronics, replace pumps, and add an emergency generator for operation during loss of power. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the Spring of 2021.

### 2020 GRAVITY SEWER REPAIR PROJECT

This Project includes the repair of 21 sites throughout our service area that includes over 1,000 feet of new sewer pipe, 17 new manholes, and 2 spot repairs on existing sewer lines. These repairs will keep the wastewater flowing in the pipes and ensure the integrity of the sewer system. Minor traffic impacts may occur at each site during construction. Construction will occur between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.



# District Awards & Achievements

We are honored to receive ongoing commendations and distinctions for the work the District does to protect our coastline and run an efficient operation.



## **Congratulations to Accounting Technician Maggie McEniry on her Retirement!**

Maggie McEniry worked as an Accounting Technician for the District for over 17 years, and retired this past summer. She has played an important role in the District's many successes during that time, such as: numerous local and state awards for its collection system, many successful financial audits, maintaining one of the lowest service rates in San Diego County, as well as numerous recognitions for its excellence in financial reporting.

We want to show our utmost appreciation for Maggie's outstanding service and commitment to the District. We wish Maggie all the best on her retirement and she will be missed!



## **Congratulations to Field Services Superintendent Jeffery Stecker**

for receiving his 40 years of service award! Jeff began his career at the District in 1980 and over these years, he has climbed up the ranks from the entry level Maintenance position to the Maintenance Supervisor and now Superintendent. During this time, Jeff has been recognized for several statewide awards, including Maintenance Person the Year and Supervisor of the Year. In addition, he has played an integral role in the District's excellent environmental records and is always looking for ways to learn more in this ever-changing industry. The District would like to congratulate and thank Jeff for his years of service.



## **Congratulations to Field Services Supervisor Marvin Gonzalez**

for receiving his 15 years of service award!



## **Congratulations to Field Services Technician Rick Easton!**

He received his California Water Environmental Association Collection System Maintenance Grade 3 certification and was promoted to Field Services Technician 3.



## **Congratulations to Field Services Technician Hugo Gonzalez!**

He received his California Water Environmental Association Collection System Maintenance Grade 3 certification and was promoted to Field Services Technician 3.



## **Congratulations to Field Services Technician Ryan Rodriguez!**

He received his California Water Environmental Association Collection System Maintenance Grade 3 certification and was also promoted to Field Services Technician 3.



## **District Achievements**

### **Another Year with No District Vehicle Accidents!**

This brings the total years with no vehicle accidents to six consecutive years. Considering our Field Services team spends over 10,000 hours per year on the road, it's quite an accomplishment that the District achieved this goal.

### **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

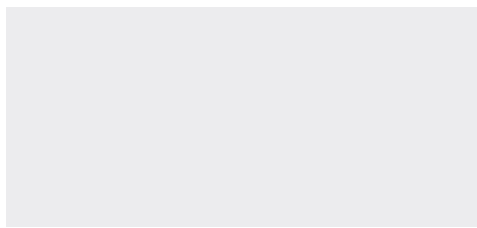
The Government Finance Officers Association recently recognized the District for its outstanding financial reporting practices.



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Carlsbad, CA 92009

## Downstream

Semi-Annual Newsletter — Fall 2020



Subscribe to our email newsletter for biannual updates from the District, which include tips and resources for community members:

<http://bit.ly/LWDSUBscribe>

## Calling All Photographers!

Submit your favorite local natural scenic photos.



Photo by **Christopher Morello** of Moonlight Beach, Encinitas

Have you seen one of your photos on our Facebook page? Maybe you were featured on the cover of our newsletter? We love seeing our community through your eyes so please continue to submit your favorite pictures from Encinitas,

Leucadia, and South Carlsbad by tagging a photo on Facebook with **#LWDPhoto** or send an email to [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org). We will give recognition to any photo we use in any of our postings or newsletters.



**Leucadia Wastewater District Newsletter**

Leaders in Environmental Protection, keeping our lagoons, beaches, and oceans clean and safe

Visit our website or Facebook page for Construction Updates that might affect traffic.  
[www.lwwd.org](http://www.lwwd.org) @LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict