

# How Droughts Affect Wastewater Collection

## Impacts of Drought

- Due to the community's water conservation efforts, less wastewater is flowing through the sewer pipes. When this occurs, there is potential for an increase in odors and root intrusions in sewer mains and homeowner's sewer laterals.
- When the wastewater is flowing at normal levels, odors can be kept at a minimum as it carries other materials with it, eventually ending up at a treatment facility. However, low flows means debris can settle in the pipes, creating stagnant odors.
- A decrease in outdoor watering can mean that plants and trees will seek water elsewhere, mainly, inside of pipes.

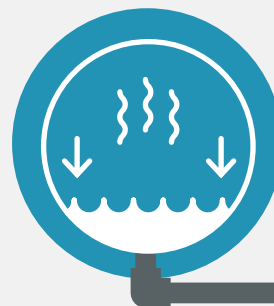
## How We Address Drought

- ✓ To adjust to water conservation efforts, our operations team has increased its pipeline cleaning, video inspections, and root control activities.
- ✓ The District recently completed a \$3.5 million upgrade to the Leucadia Pump Station, at the District's headquarters. The project included the addition of a super-oxygenation system to help control odors.
- ✓ If our Field Services Technicians discover root intrusion or defects stemming from your home's lateral, the District will send you a notice in the mail and ask you to contact a plumber. A plumber will determine if any repairs need to be made. If repairs are needed, the District offers a Lateral Grant that can fund up to 50% of the cost of your repairs, up to a maximum of \$3,000.

On July 8, 2021, the Governor declared California is experiencing another severe drought and asked all Californians to voluntarily conserve water usage by fifteen percent. Unlike wildfires, earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters, droughts do not occur over a few days. In fact, it takes months to determine when a drought has begun and ended. Thus, we may not be immediately impacted by this event, but over time the impacts to public health, the economy, and the environment can be potentially significant.

To help safeguard the District's infrastructure and plan for natural disasters, the District developed a Hazard Resiliency Plan. The Plan was recently updated in February 2021 to reflect the most recent information on natural hazards ranging from rising tides to wildfires. The Plan incorporated ongoing District infrastructure improvements needed to mitigate natural hazards, such as, installation of new pumps that can run underwater, vegetation management and the installation of flexible couplings on pipes at railroad crossings designed to withstand earthquakes.

To view the Plan, please visit <https://bit.ly/HazardResiliencyPlan>.



**Low flow causes exposure to odors**



**When roots can't find water they find our pipes**



## Leucadia Wastewater District Remembers Longtime Board Member Allan Juliussen

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our long-standing Board member, Allan Juliussen. Dedicated to public service, Allan dutifully served on the Leucadia Wastewater District Board of Directors from 1992 to 2004, and served again from 2005 to 2021. During his 28 years of service, he was a dedicated member of several committees and served as Board President and Vice President for multiple terms.

Under Allan's leadership, the District had a number of significant accomplishments, including the expansion of the District's Water Recycling Facility, a complete renovation of the District's headquarters facilities, and several updates to the District's Financial and Asset Management Plans. Allan also served as Leucadia's representative on the

Encina Wastewater Authority Board of Directors where under his stewardship, Encina completed a major treatment plant expansion and an innovative Solids Recycling Facility. Collectively, Allan's efforts greatly increased the amount of recycling in our region and improved the wastewater infrastructure, so that our residents can continue to enjoy the beautiful beaches and environment that our North County area has to offer.

In addition to his public service locally, Allan proudly served our country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. Allan valiantly served two-tours in the Vietnam War where he operated as a "tunnel rat" performing intelligence work in underground enemy tunnels on a number of very dangerous missions.

Allan was a well-rounded and versatile person and one little-known fact is that he was the original drummer of the song "Wipeout". Allan was a member of a band in high school in Glendora, CA. The band had saved enough money to record a "45" record at a local studio that included the songs "Surfer Joe" and "Wipeout". The young band sold the rights to the songs for \$15,000, which they thought was a lot of money at that time, and it was later recorded and made famous by the "Surfaris". Allan 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.

## Take a Look at our Award-winning Virtual Tour!

The District announced its virtual tour in February 2021, and it has received more than 2,800 views. While we miss hosting you at our headquarters in La Costa, we thank you for your continued interest in how we protect the environment from sewer spills. We're pleased to announce that the District was recently recognized by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies for its virtual tour.

If you have not viewed the virtual tour yet, you may watch it here and feel free to share it with your family.

<https://bit.ly/LWDvirtualtour>



## Did you know?



Our Gafner Water Reclamation Facility is named after Forest Gafner, who was one of the original founders of the District in 1959. She also served as one of the first Board members to help bring safe treatment and disposal of wastewater to the area, which had previously relied on septic tanks. The Gafner Water Reclamation Facility is located at the District's headquarters.

## Ponto Beach Surf Cam

Check out Ponto Beach from the comfort of your home through the District's webcam at

<http://bit.ly/pontosurfcam>

View the surf, sun and parking before heading out to the beach.





## District Infrastructure Improvement Projects

### *Proactively Replacing Critical Infrastructure*

The District is currently working on several projects to keep our wastewater system in top working condition. Below is the status of two key projects.

#### **LEUCADIA PUMP STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT:**

The Leucadia Pump Station is located on the District's campus, pumps approximately 3.2 million gallons of wastewater per day and is the District's second largest pump station. It services the southeastern portion of Carlsbad and the eastern portion of Encinitas. The project was completed in early August of 2021. As part of the project, a state of the art "super-oxygenation" system was constructed to infuse oxygen gas into wastewater to prevent the formation of hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) gas. This prevents odors, internal corrosion of metal pipes, and improves worker safety.

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRAVITY SEWER REPAIRS PROJECT:**

This project includes the repair of nine sites throughout our service area that includes installing five new manholes. These repairs will ensure proper flow in the sewer pipes as well as provide the Field Services staff easier access to the sewer infrastructure. Minor traffic impacts may occur at some sites during construction, between Spring 2022 and Summer 2022. Please check the District's Facebook for updates on the project.



## Exciting Partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD)

During the Leucadia Pump Station Rehabilitation Project, OMWD assisted the District by opening a large valve that could not be opened manually, with their specialized truck that includes hydraulic valve- turning equipment. Since the District does not own this type of truck or has trained staff to operate this type of equipment, we reached out to OMWD for assistance and they successfully opened the valve. The District appreciated OMWD's help. In fact, OMWD has been recruited to help the District in the future with exercising three large valves at our two largest pump stations on a periodic basis. The District in turn offered to provide services to clean two of their pump station tanks using our combination hydro-cleaning vacuum truck. This mutual aid agreement is a win-win for both agencies, demonstrating effective collaboration between local public agencies.



### **Homeowner Receives \$1,045 Sewer Lateral Grant**

In August 2021, District customer Abbie Deaton received a sewer lateral grant of \$1,045. Abbie contacted the District for sewer lateral information when she was in the process of having a plumbing company repair a sewer cleanout with major root intrusion at her residence. She was pleasantly surprised to hear about the District Lateral Reimbursement Program. When asked about her feelings toward the program, Abbie said the District and the reimbursement were "unexpected blessings."

To learn more about the District's Lateral Grant Program, please visit the District's website at <http://bit.ly/latgrant> or call us at (760) 753-0155. The lateral grant must be pre-approved, so please contact us before you begin repair work on your sewer lateral. We are happy to help!

# Welcome to our New Employees!

New Team Members join our efforts to be a recognized leader in wastewater services, water recycling and environmental protection.



## Kelly Gil

Accounting Technician

Kelly has more than 15 years of accounting experience, working in both private and public sectors. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in professional business administration

at Cal State Fullerton. She was drawn to the District because of our excellent team environment, professionalism and dedication to the community. She is looking forward to learning more about the wastewater industry to help progress her career at the District. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family, camping, and being outdoors.



## Johnny Montoya

Field Services Technician in Training

Johnny is our most recent new employee, joining the team during September 2021. Johnny holds a Class A truck driving license and has worked in the recycling industry for more than

7 years. When he is not at work, he enjoys spending quality time with his daughter and taking her to the beach. His love for the beach and being outdoors biking, hiking, and camping inspires him to protect our local beaches and environment. He is excited to join the District and learn more about how to protect the local beaches and environment from sewer spills.



## Congratulations to Administrative Services Manager Richard Duffey on His Retirement!

Richard Duffey worked as an Administrative Services Manager for the District for more than 5 years, but prior to that he worked with District Staff for more than 25 years as a financial consultant and auditor. He retired this summer and he will be greatly missed. He has played an important role in the District's many successes including numerous local and state awards for the collection system, many successful financial audits, maintaining one of the lowest sewer service rates in San Diego County, and numerous recognitions for excellence in financial reporting.

We commend Richard for his outstanding service and commitment to the District. We wish Richard all the best on his retirement!



## District Awards & Achievements

The District and its staff are honored to receive the following awards and recognitions:



### Public Outreach and Education Award for Small Agency—Virtual Tour Video

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) recognized the District for its virtual tour video at their Annual Conference during August 2021.



### District Transparency Certificate of Excellence Program

The Special District Leadership Foundation recently recognized the District for its dedication to being fully transparent, open, and accessible to the public and stakeholders.



### District of Distinction, Platinum Level Accreditation by the California Special District Leadership Foundation

There are over 3,000 special districts in California, of which only 36 special districts have this accreditation and **LWD is 1 out of 10 agencies that hold the Platinum Level Accreditation!**



### Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

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

## Congratulations!



### Trisha Hill

Administrative Services Supervisor

*20 Years of Service Award*



### Gabe Mendez

Field Services Technician

*10 Years of Service Award*



## 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, and sealing the can with a lid. Once cooled and hardened, the can should be discarded in the trash. Wipe the FOG from pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing them. 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!

<http://bit.ly/What2Flush>

## Disposing of FOG (Fats, Oils, Grease)

### Can it!



Once cooled, pour leftover FOG into a **sturdy container**

### Scrape it!



Before washing, **scrape** leftover FOG from pots & pans

### Trash it!



Put FOG scraps in the **garbage, not the sink**

To reduce food waste, Encinitas residents can utilize EDCO's Organics Recycling Program (<https://bit.ly/EDCOEncinitas>) and Carlsbad residents can continue to utilize Waste Management for their trash/recycling services.

## Year-End Stats

FY 2021



**96 miles** of pipeline video inspected



**213 miles** of pipe cleaned



**321 acre-feet** or **105 million gallons** of recycled water produced

## Now Accepting Teacher Grant Applications!

The District is accepting Teacher Grant applications for the 2021/2022 school year! Help us get the word out to teachers who can benefit from this program. Submit your Teacher Grant application by Friday, November 19, 2021. The District anticipates awarding up to three grants of up to \$2,000 each. This will be the District's 13th 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 <http://bit.ly/lwdteachergrant>



## Downstream

2021 Fall Newsletter

### Sign Up for the Online Newsletter

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

<http://bit.ly/LWDSUBSCRIBE>

## Want to preserve our environment?

We love our community and it's up to all of us to protect it.  
Read inside on how you can do your part.

Photo by **Aileen** of a Ponto Beach Sunset

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**. You could be featured on our Facebook page or the cover of our future newsletters. We will give recognition to any photo we use in any of our postings or newsletters.