

No Spill Streak Continues



Our Field Services Technicians and the City of Encinitas conduct training on proper response procedures to sewer spills.

We are pleased to report the Leucadia Wastewater District (District) has gone more than three years without having a sewer spill, which is the longest in the District's history. This is a huge achievement considering the District's Field Services Team maintains more than 200 miles of pipeline, 10 pump stations, and more than 5,000 manholes. Due to the vastness of underground pipeline systems, sewer spills can be difficult to avoid. In a typical year, wastewater agencies in our region can experience up to two spills.

Furthermore, during the heavy rains that occurred this past winter, the team did excellent work monitoring the sewer system to ensure water kept flowing inside the pipes. Heavy rainfall can enter the sewer system and overwhelm it, potentially resulting in a sewer spill. The District's Field Services Team reduces the amount of rainfall from entering the system by proactively inspecting and repairing defects found in the sewer system.

Watch Our New Emergency Preparedness Training Drill Video



Our Field Services Team conducts regular training on proper response procedures to prevent sewer spills. Check out this video to learn how our Field Services Technicians partnered with the City of Encinitas to train employees on how to connect a bypass pump to the sewer main with the goal of diverting the sewage during a power outage.

bit.ly/TrainingDrillVideo

A special "thank you" to our crew for being on high alert during the rain storms and helping prevent sewer spills to protect our local beaches and lagoon.

Congratulations to Our Teacher Grant Winners!

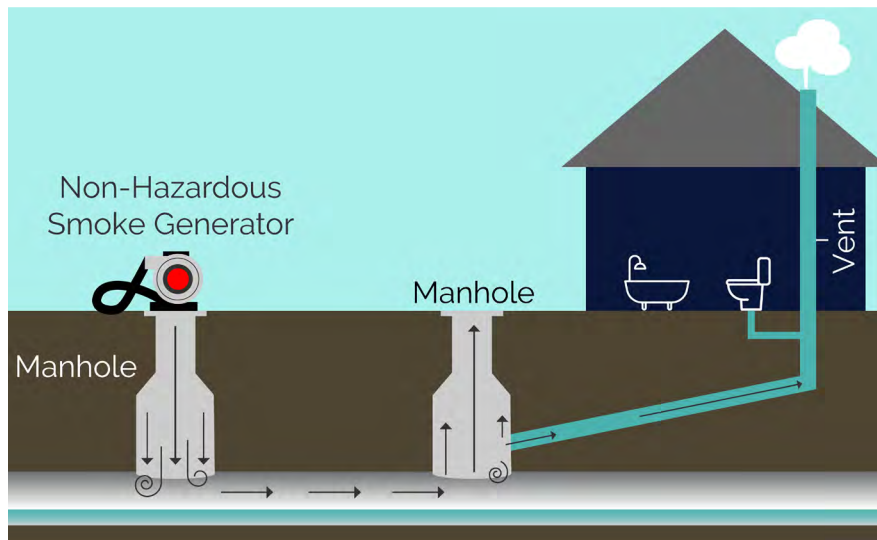
Each year, the District offers teacher grants to local schools in our service area to help teachers fund educational activities related to water resource management. Since 2008, over 18,000 local students have been impacted by projects that help students' understanding of wastewater, water management and water recycling.

We had excellent submissions this last fall and are pleased to announce the grant recipients:

- **Katie Oberman from El Camino Creek Elementary** for her Green Team Club and STEAM Class project
- **Kristie Mahin from El Camino Creek Elementary** for her Hydroponic Herb and Vegetable Gardens project
- **June Honsberger from La Costa Canyon High School** for her Pollinator Plant Garden project (Pictured to the right)
- **Nancy Jois from Capri Elementary** for her Erosion and Storm Drains project



For more information about our Teacher Grant Program, go to bit.ly/DistrictTeacherGrant.



What is Smoke Testing?

Smoke testing is a technology where non-hazardous smoke vapor is injected into sewer pipelines to detect improper connections, which often allow extra storm water to enter the sewer system. The extra water has the potential to overwhelm the system's capacity and lead to a sewer spill.

Non-hazardous smoke is pumped through sewer pipelines to private laterals, and, if properly connected, should flow out of the roof vents of businesses and residences. If

the smoke doesn't flow out the roof vents, there may be an improper connection that would allow storm water into the system. Homeowners with an intentional improper connection could be subject to fines up to \$2,500. To view how the District conducts smoke testing, watch this recent video here: bit.ly/Smoke-Testing.

Planning for the Future

Two critical planning documents that help the Leucadia Wastewater District reach its long-term goals are the Asset Management Plan and the Financial Plan. We update the plans every five years, and just recently refreshed them in 2023.

The Asset Management Plan lays out which pipelines and pump stations need to be repaired or replaced, and helps prioritize when these major projects

should be completed. The Financial Plan combines the District's projected expenses with its operational expenses, providing a picture of how and when funds will be spent over the next 20-years. Watch this video to learn more about the maintenance required at the Encinitas Estates and Batiquitos Pump Stations: bit.ly/lwdpumpstations.

Together, these two documents provide a basis to determine if a rate increase is required well before it is needed, thus avoiding an abrupt rate change.



Learning with Leucadia

Check Out Educational Opportunities and Tools Below!

Did you know for the past 40 years the Gafner Water Recycling Facility plant has been delivering recycled water to Omni La Costa Resort & Spa's South Golf Course? The water is used to irrigate the grass, keeping the course green and beautiful. We produce 80 to 100 million gallons of recycled water each year for the golf course, saving valuable potable water resources.



Photo Credit: Omni La Costa

Our Field Services Team uses combination trucks that are integral in clearing out blockages in sewer lines. To celebrate this work and educate children on wastewater management, we created stickers to hand out to the community. Email info@lwwd.org and we'll mail you stickers for your kids or students.



Share this "Brains On!" Podcast (bit.ly/BrainsOnPodcast) with your kids to help them (and you) learn how waste travels from the toilet to the sewer, to a treatment plant and ends up cleaner in the end.



The Field Services Department consists of certified technicians who operate and maintain the District's sewer system, known as a collection system. In our "Meet the FSTs" video, you may recognize some familiar faces that you've seen in your neighborhood explaining how they use various equipment and complex computer systems to clean, inspect, operate, and repair the collection system: bit.ly/MeetOurFSTs.



FST Mauricio Avalos walking with City of Encinitas technician Jared Lind at Batiquitos Pump Station.

Surf's Up from Ponto Beach!

Check out the surf, sun, and parking before heading out to Ponto Beach through the District's Webcam at bit.ly/pontosurfcam.



Installing or Resurfacing a Pool?

This is a reminder to homeowners or contractors to properly dispose of the remaining pool plaster and to not pour pool plaster down the drain or into your home's cleanout. Pool plaster hardens in pipes, and it has the potential to cause pipeline blockages that can lead to sewer spills or sewer backups in your home. Please contact us at (760) 753-0155 for more information or to report a sewer problem.



Hardened pool plaster found in sewer pipes.



Before



After

Learn How We Repair Sewer Pipes

The District uses two primary methods to repair gravity pipelines. One method is called open-trench construction and the other is called cured-in-place pipe lining (CIPP). The traditional open trench requires digging a trench for pipe removal and installation. This method is usually expensive, time-consuming, and disrupts traffic. However, open trench may be required due to the type of pipe defect. The trenchless CIPP method is preferred because it is cost-effective, less intrusive, and faster.

CIPP involves inserting a flexible liner inside an existing sewer pipe and curing it to essentially form a new pipe within the pipe. The new liner extends the pipe's life by 50 years or more.

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The first step of the CIPP process involves cleaning the existing sewer pipe by removing any roots, debris, or grease. After the existing sewer pipe is cleaned, a flexible tube-shaped liner is covered with resin. Next, the liner is pushed into the existing sewer pipe and inflated using air pressure. Lastly, to keep the shape of the tube-like liner, the resin is heated using either steam, hot water, or ultraviolet light. The new liner forms a smooth interior surface inside the existing sewer pipe, restoring it to near new condition.

Responsive Customer Service

Often, our technicians respond to homeowners' calls about sewer blockages, and we're happy to come by to see if the issue is caused by a blockage in the District's sewer main. If the blockage is not in the District's sewer main, we advise residents to call your plumber to inspect and clean the homeowner's private sewer lateral.

If the sewer lateral needs repair, we offer our customers a Lateral Grant Reimbursement Program. The District has a financial assistance program that can reimburse 50% of the repair cost, up to a maximum of \$3,000. Details can be found here: bit.ly/latgrant.

Check Out District's Retrofitted Televised Truck



The District owns and operates two television trucks that are called closed-circuit television (CCTV) vehicles. These trucks are equipped with specialized computers and a closed-circuit camera to visually inspect the sewer pipes.

Our Field Services Technicians operate these trucks every day to inspect the pipes, looking for possible defects such as cracks or any obstructions that prevent water from flowing freely. Recently, one of the televised vehicles was retrofitted to improve the functionality of the camera, upgrade the computer software, and include accessories to increase efficiency. For a virtual tour of the District's CCTV vehicle, watch this video in English (bit.ly/VirtualTourTeaserEnglish) and in Spanish (bit.ly/VirtualTourTeaserSpanish).

Standout Achievements

Staff Awards, Professional Certs, DISTRICT Awards

Congratulations to:



Jeff Stecker, Field Services Superintendent, who retired in December 2022 after 42 years of outstanding service! He began his service as a Maintenance I worker before climbing the ranks to the Maintenance Supervisor position, and then later became the Field Services Superintendent in 2011. He played an integral role in the District's operational and maintenance improvements, including transitioning maintenance priorities to inspecting pipelines with the CCTV truck and incorporating the critical information into the Asset Management Plan.

Jeff's overall dedication and support to the District have made positive impacts that resulted in major upgrades and improvements, such as the construction of the Gafner Water Recycling Facility. We want to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to Jeff for his outstanding and distinguished service to the District and its customers.



Field Services Supervisor **Gabriel Mendez** for receiving his Grade 4 Collection System Maintenance certification from the California Water Environment Association!



Field Services Technician **Jeffrey Pivaral** for receiving his State Water Resources Control Board Water Treatment Operator Grade T1 certification!



Field Services Technician **Steve Krason** for receiving the Collection Systems Person of the Year award from the California Water Environment Association San Diego Section!



District Achievement

Staff has gone **1 year with No District Vehicle Accidents**

Considering our Field Services team includes 11 people, runs 8 vehicles, and spends over 10,000 hrs/year on the road, it's quite an accomplishment that the District achieved this goal.

Downstream

2023 Spring Newsletter

Sign up for the online newsletter

Subscribe to our email newsletter for biannual updates from the District, which includes tips and resources for community members: <https://conta.cc/2T4pnUw>

Call for more local photographers!

Submit your photos by July 30, 2023 to be showcased in the next newsletter

Photo Credit: Mykell Cruz "Butterfly Painted Lady"

Submit your favorite local natural scenic photos to info@lwwd.org.

Please continue to submit your favorite pictures from Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad by tagging a photo on Facebook with #DISTRICTPhoto or send an email to info@lwwd.org. You could be featured on our Facebook page or on the cover of our future newsletters. We will give recognition to any photo we use in any of our postings or newsletters.

