

DOWNSTREAM

NEWSLETTER

WASTEWATER AND RECYCLED WATER SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES WITHIN ENCINITAS, LA COSTA, AND LEUCADIA

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Employee Spotlight: Leo Schempp – Field Services Manager

Last month, Leucadia Wastewater District bid a fond farewell to Leo Schempp, LWD's Field Services Manager. After 13 years of outstanding service managing LWD's operations department, Leo has decided to retire. His departure marks the end of a successful wastewater career.



As Leo leaves the District, we proudly celebrate his many accomplishments not only at LWD but at other organizations where he previously served. Prior to his wastewater career, Leo served for 22 years in the U. S. Navy. "The fact that he began his naval career as an enlisted man and received promotions to his final rank of Lieutenant Commander is a remarkable accomplishment and a tribute to his dedication and commitment," said General Manager Paul Bushee.

During his time in the Navy, Leo also studied for his degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Mexico, which came in handy for his second career in the wastewater field. True to form, Leo began his wastewater career at the bottom

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A Dynamic Team

Most people never think about sewage until problems occur in their homes. However, for a small group of wastewater professionals, it's a daily job in which they take great pride. Leucadia Wastewater District's Field Services team's sole task is to ensure the smooth operation of sewer facilities. They have each completed a rigorous training program and most have successfully passed strict certification exams. They are the first responders that routinely ensure more than 4 million gallons of wastewater a day are safely conveyed from homes and businesses to Encina Wastewater Authority's award-winning treatment facility.

On the surface, the work performed by the field services staff appears straight forward. However, it is now more technically advanced. The wastewater professionals operate

LWD's pump stations that are controlled by sophisticated electrical control systems. Flow monitoring devices track the amount of wastewater traveling through the pipes. If a problem does occur, a trained field services technician is available 24 hours a day to trouble shoot, identify and initiate corrective action.



The Field Services team works day and night to keep pipes that service homes and businesses flowing freely. (l-r) - Jose Gonzalez, Marvin Gonzalez, James Hoyett, Jeff Stecker, Ken Butts, Craig Farrell, Steve Krason and Ian Riffel.

In addition to maintaining more than 200 miles of pipelines, more than 5,000 manholes, and 10 wastewater pump stations, LWD staff operates a fleet of specialized "vactor" trucks that clean sewer lines through a combination of water jetting and vacuuming action. Crews also use TV cameras to annually inspect sewer lines for obstructions or damage. And, they operate a water recycling facility that provides treated water for La Costa Resort and Spa's southern golf course.

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Leo Schempp *continued from page 1*

– starting as an operator in training at the Encina Wastewater Authority in 1991. He quickly ascended the ranks of his new industry and served as a supervisor in his first stint at LWD from 1993 to 1995, then as the Operations Manager for a large treatment plant in the City of Riverside before returning to LWD as department head under his current title.

Leo's many other pursuits within the industry include serving as a longtime faculty member at Palomar College where he teaches courses in wastewater technology and serving at various capacities with the California Water Environment Association. A number of LWD's current field service employees benefited from Leo's tutorship after taking his classes at Palomar inspired them to pursue wastewater careers.

"Leo has served as a long-term mentor to the field services crew and we have all benefited from his guidance," said Field Services Supervisor Jeff Stecker.

His tenure at LWD is marked by a high degree of growth and success.

During the last 10 years, LWD received recognition as California's Collection System of the Year an unprecedented four times.

Leo's individual achievements include certification not only as a Grade 5 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator but also as a Grade 4 Collection System Operator. Both certifications represent the highest level of achievement possible and are a tribute to his professional dedication.

Leo is remembered not only because of his outstanding service and professional dedication, but also his positive interaction with LWD's Board, staff and customers. Leo will certainly be missed. Staff and Board members wish him much happiness in his retirement and continued success in his future endeavors.



Field Services Manager Leo Schempp celebrated the completion of multiple upgrades to the Batiquitos Pump Station in 2006.

Lateral Grant Program Update



Avoid Home Flooding

Tree roots are a leading cause of clogged drains and sewer spills. While our Field Services team routinely inspects the public sewer mains with a TV camera, we are not able to reliably check the condition of your private lateral pipe. We may see root intrusion or cracked pipes, especially those that occur near the junction of a smaller lateral with our large sewer main.

If during our inspection we notice a private lateral problem, we will send a "Root in Lateral" letter that notifies property owners of potential issues that they are legally responsible for. If you receive this letter, please contact a licensed plumber to investigate the problem and potentially avoid a larger, more expensive repair. LWD is one of the few organizations in Southern California that offers a Lateral Grant Program to help with the expenses.

LWD must pre-approve and provide a visual inspection of all completed work. Customers may qualify for reimbursement of half the repair cost - up to a maximum \$3,000 reimbursement, if funds are available. Contact Leucadia Wastewater District for an appointment at **(760) 753-0155** to determine eligibility or visit www.lwwd.org for Lateral Grant Program details.

San Diego County Water Authority's Internship Program



The Leucadia Wastewater District has joined the San Diego County Water Authority and other regional water/wastewater agencies, community colleges, and private-sector partners to develop a water and wastewater internship program. As the water and wastewater industry experiences an increased demand for qualified staff, this internship program provides students in the San Diego region with career opportunities and on-the-job experience. Field Services Manager Leo Schempp worked closely with the Water Authority to include wastewater in the program.

More than eight interns have honed their wastewater industry skills at Leucadia Wastewater District since the internship program began. According to Leo, the program provides an excellent way for students to experience first-hand opportunities in the wastewater industry. LWD's most recent intern, Mario Delarosa is shown in the photo.

Contact the San Diego County Water Authority at (858) 522-6660 if interested in applying for a future internship position.

Behind the Scenes at Encina Wastewater Authority

The Leucadia Wastewater District transports wastewater to the Encina Water Pollution Control Facilities in Carlsbad where it is treated to protect public health and the environment. Encina is a regional treatment facility that is owned by six public agencies including the Leucadia Wastewater District. Visit www.encinajpa.com for more information.



Encina Wastewater Authority operates a highly efficient electrical generation system at its Carlsbad wastewater treatment facility. They use the bio-methane generated from the treatment process as an energy source. The facility's power program saves the agency nearly \$3 million annually in electrical costs generating 63 percent of its electricity.



Operator Eric Have monitors the electrical activity at the plant.

The U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency recently recognized Encina for its green energy program by awarding it membership in its prestigious Green Power Partnership Program Leadership Club.

Encina ranks 13 on EPA's Top 20 nationwide On-site Generation list and tops all entities, such as the U.S. Air Force and Kimberly-Clark Corporation, in the total percentage of electricity used category.



"We produced nearly 11 million kilowatt hours from onsite-generated bio-methane in 2009, which is roughly equivalent to providing the energy needs of nearly 600 homes per year," said Encina General Manager Kevin Hardy. "Our Green Power Partnership is proof that EWA is a model of excellence and innovation in the wastewater industry."

U.S. EPA indicates that the combined purchases of all its Partnership members total approximately 17 billion kWh of green power annually. This equates to the prevention of carbon dioxide emissions from more than 1.4 million average U.S. homes.

Recycled Water? Facility Tour? Biosolids Updates?

Learn about these topics and more. Call 760-753-0155 or email: info@lwwd.org to schedule a presentation for your organization.



Radiant Solar Savings

The District completed its first year through the solar energy program by saving more than \$18,000 in energy costs. "Since the installation of our solar panels, we've generated more than 127,000 kWh of electricity," said Project Manager Robin Morishita. This is enough power to operate seven homes for one year. The use of the solar panels eliminated more than 157,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to 16 cars emitting carbon dioxide annually.

Stop by our office and view the solar computer kiosk that provides hourly reports showing how much solar energy is captured and converted to electricity.



Lightning Strike Leads to Spill

LWD experienced an unusual lightning strike in October that led to a wastewater spill at the Batiquitos Pump Station on Highway 101 in Carlsbad. The lightning damaged the pump station's communications equipment and main computer causing the pumps to turn off. Unfortunately, more than 69,000 gallons of wastewater made its way into the Batiquitos Lagoon. Long-term environmental impacts of the spill are not anticipated since the lagoon tidal flushes daily. A team of experts evaluated the impacts of the lightning strike and they are working with LWD to prevent future system failures.



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Construction NEWS



Last September, LWD completed a \$2.6 million project that replaced two pump stations and more than 7,000 feet of existing sewer lines throughout the City of Encinitas. Both the pump stations and pipelines served the community reliably for more than 30 years. The project occurred as part of upgrades scheduled in the District's Asset Management Program that identifies preventative maintenance requirements before system failures occur.

A Batiquitos Force Main Repair Project began in November along Coast Highway 101 north of La Costa Ave. in Encinitas. This four-to-six month project, costing \$1.1 million, replaces approximately 1,300 feet of metal pipe which failed in May 2010 after 31 years of service. While the metal pipe had an anticipated life of 50 years, replacement became a priority following the incident. The new polyvinylchloride (PVC) pipe should last a minimum of 50 years.

Please exercise caution and observe all traffic signs while driving, biking or walking in any of LWD's construction areas.

TEAM *continued from page 1*

Customer service remains a top priority. Each employee at LWD recognizes our responsibility to serve the public. Our friendly field services staff is always ready to answer customer questions or concerns. If our team is working in your area, we encourage you to meet our field services employees and seek assistance. In the past, as noted by numerous unsolicited notes from local area residents, our team has gone out of their way to assist the public,



proving once again, that they are committed District representatives dedicated to protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our environmental resources.

Every Field Services team member works diligently to keep north county beaches beautiful and safe for all to enjoy.