

DOWNSTREAM

WINTER 2010
NEWSLETTER

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



Dedicated to Serve

Last fall, a double celebration took place at Leucadia Wastewater District's La Costa Avenue and El Camino Real headquarters. A dedication ceremony highlighting both construction completion and the District's 50th anniversary occurred on Friday, Nov. 6. The District, along with the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, dedicated its new facilities in the morning with an official ribbon-cutting event. Later that afternoon, the community joined the celebration at an open house and enjoyed the festivities marking the District's 50th anniversary.

"The official anniversary of our District occurred in April," said General Manager Paul Bushee. "However, we decided to wait and conduct a grand event acknowledging our past and present Directors and employees while opening our new facilities to the community that we serve."

Leucadia Wastewater partnered with other agencies and its local neighbors to make the event a reality: Albertsons Sav-on, AT&T Express, Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation, Broken Yolk Café, Bruegger's, Encina Wastewater Authority, Flippin' Pizza, Pacific Western Bank, Starbucks and Union 76 Gasoline/Circle K. ■



Board of Directors

- Allan H. Juliusen, *President*
- Donald Omsted, *Vice President*
- Judy Hanson, *Director*
- Elaine Sullivan, *Director*
- David Kulchin, *Director*
- Paul J. Bushee, *General Manager*

1. The Leucadia Wastewater District Team: On stairway (l-r): Ken Butts, Richard Duffy, Keon Nelson, Jose Gonzalez, Steve Krason, Craig Farrell, James Hoyett, General Manager Paul Bushee, Marvin Gonzalez, Armond Badillo, Jeff Stecker, Ian Riffel and Wayne Brechtal. Lobby level (l-r): Leo Schempp, Ann McLaughlin, Maggie McEniry, Tianne Baity, Trisha Hill, Chuck LeMay, and Robin Morishita. Not shown: Frank Reynaga

2. Leucadia Wastewater District honored Mrs. Forest Gafner, one of the early pioneers. Posing in front of her photo are (l-r) her grandson Mr. Stan Gafner, her son Walter Gafner, her granddaughter-in-law Mary Gafner and her granddaughter Sheryl Smith.

3. Trisha Hill and Frank Reynaga encourage visitors to sign up for the DownStream e-newsletter and receive a BPA-free drinking bottle. To view additional photos, visit www.lwwd.org.

Drain and Toilet Tips

The stories are endless. Every wastewater agency has come across the strangest things that “accidentally” reach the drain or toilet. There are the precious diamond rings, the cell phones and even puppies (last year in London, a puppy actually survived after enduring a toilet-flushing journey). Leucadia Wastewater District wants to remind its customers to flush and dispose of items with care. Most residential pipelines are four inches or less in diameter and may clog easily.

Other than losing valuable items, people are often unaware that many items should never intentionally enter a drain or toilet. Many seemingly harmless articles such as cleaning wipes could lead to blockages and ultimately sewer spills. Other items such as pesticides or fertilizers could cause environmental harm because the treatment plant is not designed to remove these chemicals. Long-term environmental impacts may cause health concerns since hidden chemicals could potentially seep into the groundwater, rivers, bays and streams.

There are only two toilet-friendly items:

1. Human waste
2. Toilet paper

There is only one drain-friendly item:

1. **Greywater** (soapy water derived from laundry, dishwashing or bathing)



KEEP OUT of Drains and Toilets

Hazardous Chemicals

- Medications
- Paints
- Pesticides and Fertilizers

Hazardous chemicals may hinder the ability of treatment plants to reuse the biosolids as fertilizer and recycle the water for irrigation.

Clog Contributors

- Cleaning wipes
- Diapers
- Facial tissue (especially, those with lotions)
- Fats, Oils, Grease
- Feminine products

Clog contributors may block residential/business lateral pipelines and large public sewer mains.

Year-End Gift Benefits Schools and Conserves Water



(l-r) LWD Grant Coordinator Trisha Hill honors Thomas Louis Baugh, Susan Moise and June Honsberger in December 2009.

Three local schools celebrated last month after each received a \$1,000 economic boost for their environmental projects from Leucadia Wastewater District. La Costa Canyon High, La Costa Meadows Elementary and Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary each had teachers who submitted applications for the District’s Teacher Grant Program. All three schools will use the \$1,000 grant to fund water conservation projects.

June Honsberger from La Costa Canyon High is a second-time grant recipient. She’ll use the money to expand the school’s drought-tolerant garden that she started with the first grant.

Thomas Louis Baugh from Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary will convert the school’s existing garden to drip irrigation and add drought-tolerant plants.

Susan Moise and Mary Clark of La Costa Meadows Elementary teamed up on their application and will purchase 36 books to initiate a Water Conservation Resource section at their school’s library.

LWD will have 2010 grant applications available online later this year. Teachers must work at schools located in LWD’s service area and submit projects related to water resource management, water recycling or ocean water pollution prevention. ■

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. Visit www.encinajpa.com for more information.

A Rock-Solid Solution

Kevin Hardy stepped in as General Manager at the Encina Wastewater Authority in April 2008. His 23 years of industry experience prepared him for this exciting career transition. When asked about EWA's greatest accomplishment during his first year as GM, he immediately responded, "implementing the biosolids management plan." EWA is actively moving forward with marketing "high-energy value, fertilizer-grade material produced from wastewater" to private industries.

EWA officially launched the sale of its biosolids pellets last summer to CEMEX, the world's largest building materials supplier. The Victorville/Apple Valley-area plant has two cement kilns that run on nearly 50 tons of coal per hour.



Encina Wastewater Authority General Manager Kevin Hardy successfully implements Encina's Biosolids Management Business Plan.

Encina now provides up to 7,000 tons of biosolids fuel annually to CEMEX. "Cement production requires a large amount of energy," said Kevin. "EWA's relationship with CEMEX is the first step towards breathing life into our biosolids management plan. The sale of biosolids pellets for use as an alternative fuel reflects EWA's mission to remain a fiscally responsible environmental leader." On Oct. 27, past General Manager Mike Hogan joined Kevin to accept the 2009 CalPERS Spotlight on Excellence Award for development and implementation of the Encina plan.

CEMEX contracted with a private venture in the Rialto area to provide similar biofuels around the same time as they started purchasing EWA's pellets. CEMEX also uses old tires and wood chips as alternative fuels. Its innovative methods earned CEMEX recognition as a U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Partner of the Year for outstanding energy management and greenhouse gas emission reductions "EWA's partnership with CEMEX is based on a shared vision to improve environmental performance through resource recovery," said Kevin. ■



Encina now sells its biosolids to help fuel CEMEX's Victorville-area cement plant. Photo courtesy of Otto Nero, CEMEX.

Employee Spotlight: Marvin Gonzalez - Field Services Technician III

Marvin Gonzalez is proud that he serves as one of the few Leucadia Wastewater District employees to perform almost every kind of job at LWD. He multi-tasks through a variety of jobs, ranging from maintaining pump stations and pipelines to operating the closed-circuit TV van.

He is an LWD employee of four years and said the best part about his job is performing field assignments where he interacts with his co-workers and the community. "I really enjoy working at Leucadia," said Marvin. "We have a tight team that takes pride and responsibility in what we do." Obviously, many others recognize Marvin's talents. He received the third place award as the 2008 California Water Environment Association's Collection Person of the Year.

According to Marvin, his most memorable experience occurred while responding to a sewage-pipe backup. He and two other employees creatively placed chains around the tree roots that caused the blockage in the pipe and excavated the roots with a truck.

In his spare time, Marvin enjoys quality time with his wife and four children. He also likes working out, playing soccer with his kids and camping in the mountains and deserts around San Diego. ■



Marvin Gonzalez

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Grant Program Relieves District Homeowners

Mark and Gina Armbrust moved into their Carlsbad home in May 2009. Within three weeks they discovered a break in their sewer lateral pipeline that connects to the larger pipe in the street. The couple received a \$2,975 quote from a local plumber to repair the cracked pipe; a cost that neither their homeowners' warranty nor their insurance policy would cover. However, they found relief in discovering that Leucadia Wastewater District's Lateral Grant Program provides reimbursement for homeowners in situations like this one.

Field Services Specialist Frank Reynaga visited the Armbrust home in the beginning stages of repair and informed them about the program. "Mr. Reynaga kindly told us about the Lateral Grant Program and after submitting the appropriate documentation, we received a reimbursement of \$1,487.50," said Mrs. Armbrust. "We are very grateful to the LWD for offering this program and for helping us defray the cost for repairs."

The program reimburses qualified homeowners 50 percent of the cost for lateral repairs, up to a maximum of \$3,000. Repairs may range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 depending on the extent of damage. The program is also open to Homeowners' Associations. ■



Gina and Mark Armbrust received a grant to offset 50 percent of their lateral pipe repair expenses.

Eligibility Guidelines

- **Make time to schedule a lateral pipeline maintenance inspection with a reputable plumber BEFORE problems occur.**
- **If there's a damaged pipe, call Leucadia Wastewater District PRIOR to making repairs.**
- **LWD will send a team out to inspect the pipe and provide a list of suggested plumbers along with the lateral grant program application.**
- **For more information, visit www.lwwd.org or call 760-753-0155.**