

ALLAN JULIUSSEN, President
DONALD OMSTED, Vice President
JUDY HANSON, Director
DAVID KULCHIN, Director
ELAINE SULLIVAN, Director
PAUL J. BUSHEE, General Manager



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: General Manager Paul Bushee
(760) 753-0155

Press Release from Leucadia Wastewater District

On Tuesday, October 19, 2010, Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD) crews responded to a wastewater spill at the Batiquitos Pump Station on Highway 101 in Carlsbad, CA in the vicinity of South Carlsbad State Beach and the Batiquitos Lagoon. The spill appears to have been caused by a lightning strike at the Batiquitos Lagoon in the early morning hours that was in close proximity to the pump station. The pump station's electronic communications and main computer were damaged during the event terminating communications and causing the pumps to shut off.

At 5:30 am, LWD arrived at the scene and restored operation of the pump station thereby stopping the spill. LWD estimates that spill lasted for 35 minutes and approximately 60,000 gallons were released into the Batiquitos Lagoon. Shortly after daybreak, LWD staff began sampling the Batiquitos Lagoon and South Carlsbad State Beach area as per its protocols. Warning signs have been posted at Carlsbad State Beach as directed by the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health. LWD is continuing to investigate this incident and plans to implement measures as appropriate to prevent future spills.

For more information, please contact LWD at (760) 753-0155.

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Background: Leucadia Wastewater District was formed in 1959 to collect, transport, and treat wastewater and provide recycled water for irrigation. The District provides service to about 60,000 customers in a 16-square-mile area that includes La Costa, Leucadia, and the Village Park area of Encinitas. The District manages of about 4 million gallons of treated wastewater daily.

The District's operations feature the use of advanced technology. Pipelines are regularly video-inspected to assure that they are secure and leak free. Computer mapping systems and mathematical modeling are used to design and maintain facilities so that they work under all conditions, at all times.

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District Office: 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, California 92009-6810, ph: (760) 753-0155, Fax: (760) 753-3094, www.lwwd.org