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Community Celebrates Leucadia Wastewater District's 50th Anniversary and Dedication of New Facilities



Carlsbad, Calif. – Leucadia Wastewater District celebrated 50 years of service and officially rolled out the red carpet today as it dedicated its new facility with the help of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and local businesses. Local dignitaries, businesses, staff and community members joined in the all-day event at the El Camino Real and La Costa Avenue site. They celebrated the district's 50-year history of safely providing wastewater collection and recycled water service to communities within Encinitas, La Costa and Leucadia. The District also opened up the new facilities for public tours in the afternoon.

“We’re proud of all the accomplishments from our current employees and the two local residents who laid the foundation for us more than 50 years ago,” said Director Judy Hanson. “Mrs. Pearl Land and Mrs. Forest Gafner had a vision for the safe treatment and disposal of wastewater in the 1950s. Many other committed board members and employees have successfully carried the torch of achievement throughout the past half-century.”

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The board of directors acknowledged the endeavors of the district during the morning ceremony and received proclamations from various agencies. In the afternoon, the district opened the gates to the public and several sponsors participated in the community celebration. "Since we're located in a shopping center, we wanted our neighbors to join us, so we could tell them that we appreciated their patience with our construction during the last 18 months," said LWD Board President David Kulchin.

Leucadia Wastewater District is categorized as one of a limited number of public agencies in the state that operates independently of local government. The original five board members met at a small home on Neptune Street in the early years. Today, there are still five board members that provide oversight for the district.

The original facilities were constructed in the early 1960s when the district began with a 400-acre service area. Today, LWD encompasses a 9,500-acre (16-square mile) area. In addition to safely maintaining the 190 miles of gravity pipelines and 11 pump stations that transport wastewater to the Encina Water Pollution Control Facilities, the district operates a recycled water treatment plant that provides recycled water to the city of Carlsbad for landscaping use.

"We achieved funding for the approximately \$9 million construction project through proactively establishing a Capital Improvement Project account years ago when we were planning for our future needs," said Kulchin. Dudek Engineering of Encinitas managed the construction of the facility. General Contractor Jaynes Corporation provided construction services and Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects designed the facilities. Sequoia Solar of Solana Beach is installing Solar Panels to generate 131,000 kWh of electricity annually.

The San Diego County Board of Education's Splash Mobile Lab, the Encina Wastewater Authority, Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation and LWD's Teacher Grant Program recipient also provided environmental learning opportunities for kids and adults at the community event.

The following sponsors participated in the event providing snacks and promotional items: Albertsons/Sav-On, AT&T Express, Broken Yolk Café, Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation, Brueggers, Encina Wastewater Authority, Flippin Pizza, Pacific Western Bank, Starbucks and Union 76 Gasoline/Circle K.

Established in 1959, Leucadia Wastewater District collects, transports, treats and disposes of wastewater. The district provides service to approximately 60,000 customers in a 16-square-mile area that includes La Costa, Leucadia and the Village Park area of Encinitas. The district disposes of more than 4.5 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.

