

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

August 17, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. New Business**
 - A. Review the 2015 Fall Newsletter draft text. (Pages 2-7)
- 5. Information Items**

None.
- 6. Director's Comments**
- 7. General Manager's Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 13, 2015
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager 
SUBJECT: Fall 2015 Newsletter Draft Text Review

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Fall 2015 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

During July 2015, TRG and Associates (TRG) presented a list of story ideas for the fall 2015 newsletter to the CAC and staff for comments. TRG and staff have completed the draft newsletter text. TRG and staff will present the proposed newsletter text at the CAC meeting.

Attached please find the draft text for the fall 2015 Newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

cal:PJB

Fall 2015 Newsletter – Staff Draft

Cover Story:

No Wipes Down the Pipes!

The Leucadia Wastewater District, like other wastewater agencies across the nation, is experiencing an increase in required maintenance due to the popularity of personal cleansing wipes that are disposed down the toilet. Despite misleading labels that say wipes are “flushable,” our recent experience proves they are not.

Wipes will go down the toilet when flushed, and can flow through sewer lines if the flow in the pipes is adequate and the line is free of obstructions. However, because wipes don’t break down like toilet paper, they often get caught on roots or other debris in your lateral or our pipelines where they can bunch up, and cause a blockage—which could result in a sewer spill or backup into your home.

Despite our best efforts to keep wipes out of toilets, many wipes do make it through your sewer lateral and into our pipelines. When this happens, they eventually travel to our pump stations where they are either caught on protective screens or cause blockages in the pumps. It’s here that the wipes must be removed manually to allow the flow of wastewater into our pump station to prevent damage to expensive equipment. This increased maintenance and periodic repairs to our system has caused an increase in operational costs that could affect your sewer rates.

As a result, LWD will soon be increasing our public outreach efforts to inform and educate citizens about the hazards of putting these wipes down the toilet. Look for increased media coverage and informative material about this alarming environmental issue. And, as always, if you see our crews on the streets, talk to them about questions you may have and learn how you can help.

Here’s the bottom line: only human waste and toilet paper should go down the toilet. Everything else needs to go in the trashcan. If you do this, you’ll not only help prevent spills in your own home, but you’ll help protect our local environment from sewage spills in the main pipelines and pump stations. It’s an easy solution to a growing problem.

Go to LWD's website at lwwd.org or Facebook page and watch "The Interrogation", a video about wipes produced by Flora Vista Elementary students through the District's Teacher Grant Program.

The Drought's Impact on the Sewer System

The on-going drought in southern CA has had a dramatic impact on numerous industries throughout our area. Each day, we are reminded how important it is to conserve water. And while we struggle to adjust our daily routine to meet new goals, little did we realize the unintended consequences to the wastewater industry.

The amount of wastewater flowing through LWD's sewer system has decreased primarily due to your water conservation efforts. And, as people continue to conserve more, that flow is expected to decrease further. LWD's average flow has decreased from 4.5 MGD (million gallons per day) in 2007 to an average of less than 4 MGD today. That's a 13% decrease in wastewater flow despite a 4% increase in service area population growth.

Years ago LWD's pipeline system was designed for maximum flows based largely on projected population growth. Less water running through the District's sewer lines today means that greater efforts must be focused on maintaining lines that are free of odors and obstructions.

Possibly the biggest "drought" related threat to your home's lateral and our sewer system is "root intrusion". During periods when rainfall is low and home watering is limited, tree roots, in particular, are a significant problem as they search for water. Even if trees are not located directly next to your lateral, their root system is still a threat as they search for water in your lateral by entering joint openings or a damaged pipe. And once they find a way in, your line may begin to slow or even clog. That's when a sewage spill or home back-up occurs.

Another on-going concern is odors that may occur in sewer lines that are relatively flat. Limited flows in these lines may not be sufficient to ensure that waste and other debris is moved through the system properly. Be on the look for

slow drains, cracking or raising concrete that may be caused by a root and check for odors as well.

On a larger scale, LWD is doing the same. We have increased our video inspection efforts to identify and correct odor and root intrusion problems. With two video trucks inspecting lines daily and two vactor trucks cleaning lines and removing debris, our crews are identifying and correcting problems before they occur.

Help us stay ahead of the drought. If you have an odor concern or suspect a root problem, notify your plumber and the District at (760) 753-0155. And remember, if your lateral requires repair, check out LWD's Lateral Reimbursement Program before you begin. You may be eligible for a District grant.

Encina Wastewater Authority's New State of the Art Facility Increases Electricity Production

Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA) is North County's regional wastewater treatment facility owned by six public agencies including LWD. Since 1983, EWA has operated an electrical generation plant that uses methane gas from the wastewater treatment process to power large generators that produce facility electricity. In 2014, this energy producing process was significantly enhanced when EWA completed construction of a new facility specifically designed to receive fats, oils, and grease (FOG) from area restaurants.

FOG is generated by restaurants, grocery stores and other non-industrial facilities that use oils, butter and other types of grease in cooking. Regulations require that it be collected and disposed of properly—generally collected into a container that is picked up by a contractor and taken to a facility such as EWA.

The Encina facility currently receives 50,000 to 80,000 gallons of FOG (also called biofuel) per week. That amount is expected to reach up to 160,000 gallons per week in the future. This FOG is piped into digesters where solids are separated and methane gas is produced by a process known as anaerobic digestion. It's this methane gas that can be used to either generate electricity or power Encina's state of the art biosolids heat drying facility.

What's the benefit of collecting FOG at Encina? Not only does this process allow restaurants and other local industries to dispose of FOG properly, but it also serves as a source of income to finance the facility through "tipping" fees paid by the industries. However, the biggest benefit is that the power produced from methane gas has allowed EWA to produce over 80% of its current energy needs. The new FOG facility alone has improved EWA's energy production by over 5% with additional production expected in the future. On occasions when additional power is required, it also allows EWA to purchase the electricity during off-peak hours at night, which results in a significant cost savings to the facility.

LWD and our ratepayers benefit from the cost savings associated with EWA's enhance power generation facilities. The District supports and encourages EWA's power generation program, as well as its other resource recovery programs including its Pure Green biosolids fertilizer and water recycling programs.

Awards and Accolades

On July 14, 2015, the District's Field Services Superintendent Jeff Stecker celebrated his 35th anniversary working at District. The District would like to congratulate and thank Jeff for his years of service.

His story: Back in 1980, he heard about a job opening at the District from a friend that worked in the industry. "After working in the roofing industry for four years, I jumped at the chance to try a new career and apply for the maintenance position. Back in the early days, the job was a lot simpler, but it's been so interesting learning both at school and on the job. It's much more complex now and it's always challenging," stated Jeff.

Over these years, Jeff has climbed up the ranks from the entry level Maintenance position to the District's Maintenance Supervisor and now the Superintendent, which includes overseeing the District's Water Recycling facility. His successful career development contributes to Jeff's hard work and his many accomplishments at the District. Throughout his long tenure, Jeff has played in integral role in the District's excellent Environmental records and is always looking

for ways to learn more in this ever changing industry. Another factor to his success is that he is constantly making suggestions on how the District can improve its operations to prevent sewer spills and assisting with improvements to the District's infrastructure. Under Jeff's tutelage the District has been recognized for numerous state awards in a variety of disciplines including: outstanding wastewater collection system, innovative infrastructure improvements and excellent safety program. In addition, Jeff has been individually recognized for several statewide awards including: Maintenance Person of the Year (1993) and Supervisor of Year of the Year (twice 2004 & 2006).

Due to Jeff's positive contributions to the industry, the California Water Environment Association invited Jeff to participate on its Award's Program Committee which is responsible for evaluating award applications statewide. As Chair of the Committee, Jeff was actively involved with the planning of CWEA's Midsummer Conference, which is a large training event designed specifically for wastewater operators.

During his spare time, Jeff spends it with his two sons, three grandkids, his companion and her two dogs. When his kids were younger, he stated that "It was a busy time for me juggling work, family, going to school and studying for the tests in order to receive my certifications". In addition, he loves to run and participate in local running events.

Photo of Jeff with the caption:

"I thoroughly enjoy working at LWD because we've got such a great team of professionals and our work is so essential to living in a healthy community and protecting our local environment."

LWD Awards

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) awarded LWD with the 2015 CASA Achievement Award for its technical innovation for integrating their frontline Field Services Technicians into LWD's capital project planning.