



**LEUCADIA**  
WASTEWATER  
DISTRICT

LEADERS IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
David Kulchin, President  
Allan Juliussen, Vice President  
Judy Hanson, Director  
Donald F. Omsted, Director  
Elaine Sullivan, Director  
Paul J. Bushee, General Manager

Ref: 19-6610

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair  
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 171  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 319-3950

**Re: Leucadia Wastewater District Support of AB 1672 (Bloom)**

Dear Assemblymember Quirk:

The Leucadia Wastewater District (District) is pleased to support AB 1672 (Bloom). Established in 1959, LWD collects, transports, treats and disposes of wastewater for approximately 60,000 customers in a 16-square-mile area that includes the La Costa area of Carlsbad and the Leucadia and the Village Park areas of Encinitas.

AB 1672 would establish labeling requirements and performance standards for wet wipes so that Californians will know whether a product can be discarded safely by their plumbing. In recent years, wet wipes have gained popularity as they're designed for a variety of daily household purposes. Some are advertised as "flushable", which encourages residents to dispose of wipes by flushing them down the toilet instead of properly disposing of them in the trashcan. Because many wet wipes are not compatible with sewer collection system infrastructure, flushing these products result in the wipes getting caught in pipes or amassing with fats, oils, and grease (FOG) and other debris. This can result in obstructions that cause sanitary sewer overflows, impacting public health, or costly house backups. As wipes travel further down the sewer line they weave together and could create giant rags which get stuck in pumps and valves and damage expensive agency equipment.

Our District has continually dealt with the consequences of non-flushable wipes. This has come at a cost in time, labor, equipment and material to the District and its rate payers. For example:

1. Clogs pumps - The clogging or ragging of pumps at our Batiquitos Pump Station, please see attached photograph. On average, pump clearing occurs four times per year at the pump station at a cost of approximately \$3,300 per year.
2. Restricts flow - The Batiquitos Pump Station has a bar screen installed to prevent pump damage from large debris being drawn into a pump. The wipes accumulate on the bars and restrict flow into the pump station. Therefore, the bar screen requires cleaning twice a week to prevent a back up of flow into the pump station. This continuous ongoing cleaning cost the District approximately \$41,300 annually.
3. Creates a grease mat - The wipes that pass through the bar screen collect in the pump station's wet well. The wipes combine with FOG, grit and small debris which form a grease mat or blanket that floats on the water surface. The mat grows thicker as wipes, FOG and debris continue to accumulate. The grease blanket reduces pump station capacity and

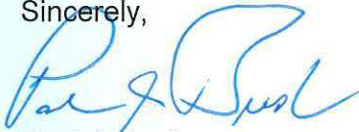
negatively impacts the proper operation of the station. The one time labor and equipment required to remove the mat cost approximately \$38,500.

4. Additional equipment - To prevent the grease blanket from forming in the wet well the District installed two submersible chopper pumps to keep the water circulating and agitated. The procurement and installation of the pumps cost the District \$66,500. The pumps have been successful in preventing the grease blanket from forming. However, operational cost have increased due to the additional electrical demand to operate the pumps and associated pump maintenance.

Over the last decade, wet wipes have been an increasing problem for property owners, sewer systems, and ratepayers. The wipes do not break down after being flushed. These challenges are being experienced by agencies around the state, and AB 1672 would ensure wet wipes packaging clearly communicates whether the product safely can be discarded through a toilet or whether and should not be flushed at all.

For these reasons, the Leucadia Wastewater District is pleased to support AB 1672, and we respectfully request your "Aye" vote when the bill is heard before you on April 9, 2019.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Bushee  
General Manager

cc: Assemblymember Richard Bloom via fax (916) 319-2150  
Members, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee  
Jessica Gauger, California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner Horvath via fax (916) 319-2176  
Paige Brokaw, Consultant, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials  
Committee via fax (916) 319-3950

