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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Leucadia Wastewater District's Employee Wins State Award

Gabriel Mendez, Field Services Technician 2 was awarded the 2013 California Collection System Person of the Year award from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) during their annual conference on May 2, 2014.

Gabriel competed with five finalists throughout CWEA's seventeen member regions across California. He became eligible for the state award by winning in CWEA San Diego Section competition in March 2014.

In achieving this award, the selection committee recognized the fact that Gabriel is known for his positive "can do" attitude and attention to details. He also assumed a very active role in mentoring new employees and interns assigned to Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD) as the part of the San Diego County Water Authority Internship Program. During his off time, Gabriel has passed several industry exams, while continuing his education at Palomar College to obtain a degree in Public Works Management. LWD staff and Board members are very proud that Gabriel received this award.



From left to right: LWD's President David Kulchin presents LWD's Field Technician 2 Gabriel Mendez with the CWEA State 2013 Collections Person of the Year Award.

**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 15-square-mile area that includes La Costa area of Carlsbad and the Leucadia and the Village Park area of Encinitas. The District manages of about 4.5 million gallons of treated wastewater daily and also provides recycled wastewater to the La Costa Resort golf course.

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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