

# Downstream

Summer 2019 Newsletter



**Wet wipes or “Flushable” wipes have gained popularity during the last decade.** Most companies are marketing and labeling their products as “flushable”. Yes, they disappear after you have flushed them; however, homeowners can potentially clog their sewer pipe after the wipes have been flushed because wipes do not break down or disintegrate like toilet paper. At LWD, and other agencies throughout the country, we are finding that wet wipes are the primary cause of clogs and equipment damage that could cause sewage spills.

We are experiencing a significant increase in maintenance that is directly attributed to wipes. This in turn, has led to increased operational costs that could affect your future sewer rates.

**Here is the bottom line:** Wipes clog pipes—only human waste and toilet paper should go down the toilet. Everything else needs to go in the trash can. If you do this, you’ll not only help prevent a backup in your own home, but you’ll help protect our local environment from sewage spills; keeping our lagoons and beaches free of pollution.



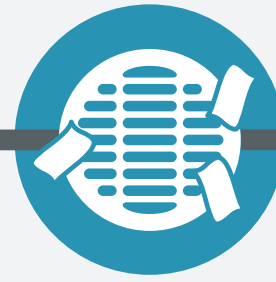
**FLUSHED WIPES**

Flushing wet wipes down the toilet can clog plumbing systems, leading to expensive repairs.



**CLOGGED SEWER LINES**

Wipes make it to the sewer system, they can catch on roots that infiltrate pipes, weave together to form large rags and attract fats, oils and grease, which can cause blockages and sewer spills.



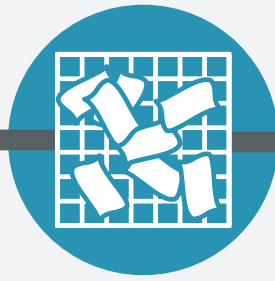
**SEWER OVERFLOWS**

Wipes make their way into private sewer laterals, septic systems, and sewer lines and can cause extensive harm and result in overflows and property damage.



**ENVIRONMENTAL HARM**

When wipes filter out of the wastewater stream, small microfibers and microplastics can shed off. These fibers can’t be captured and can make their way into the environment.



**DISRUPTED TREATMENT PLANTS**

Oftentimes, masses of wipes manage to make it through the collection system and end up at wastewater treatment plants, which can result in significant damage to treatment infrastructure and recurrent disruption of the treatment process.



**DAMAGED COLLECTION SYSTEMS**

Most collection systems rely on pumps to move wastewater to treatment facilities. Wipes can clog these pumps, resulting in spills, system failures, increased maintenance requirements and damage to expensive equipment.

# No Increase in your Wastewater Rate for Fiscal Year 2020

**\$28.64**  
per month

The District's FY 2020 budget was approved last June with no increase in our wastewater service rate. At \$28.64 per month for the typical home in our District; this is one of the lowest rates in San Diego County. Average monthly rates in the County currently range from \$27.81 to \$79.17. Our rate has not increased since 2017. The District is able to achieve this lower rate while still maintaining our sewer system in peak operational condition by carefully managing our maintenance, operations and capital improvement costs.

Our Field Services team is continuously monitoring and assessing the sewer lines and pump stations and the District is proactively replacing infrastructure before it breaks. To help establish current and future wastewater rates, the District periodically updates its Asset Management Plan, which forecasts future capital improvement projects and their costs, and updates its Financial Plan—[bit.ly/LWDFinancialPlan](https://www.lwwd.org/bit.ly/LWDFinancialPlan)—which forecasts future revenues and operating expenses.

To learn more about these plans visit [www.lwwd.org](https://www.lwwd.org).

## Homeowner Receives \$3,000 Grant to Help Repair his Sewer Lateral

District homeowner Craig Hooker had a sewer backup in his residence in April 2019. This prompted Mr. Hooker to contact a plumber to investigate the problem. The plumber performed a sewer lateral inspection which revealed a major root intrusion throughout most of his 100-foot sewer lateral on his property. Mr. Hooker decided to replace his entire sewer lateral. He was unaware of the District's **Lateral Grant Program**.

When his contractor called in the DigAlert ticket, Field Services Specialist Ian Riffel responded to the DigAlert ticket and informed the contractor about our lateral grant program. Mr. Hooker was pleasantly surprised to hear of the program and he submitted an application. We were able to approve a maximum lateral grant of \$3,000 to help him offset some of the costs of replacing his lateral. Mr. Hooker was very appreciative of the financial assistance program offered by the District. He is "happy the project is complete."

To Learn more about the District's **Lateral Grant Program**, please visit the District's website at [bit.ly/latgrant](https://www.lwwd.org/bit.ly/latgrant) or call us at (760) 753-0155. The lateral grant must be pre-approved, so please contact us before you begin repair work on your sewer lateral, we are here to help!



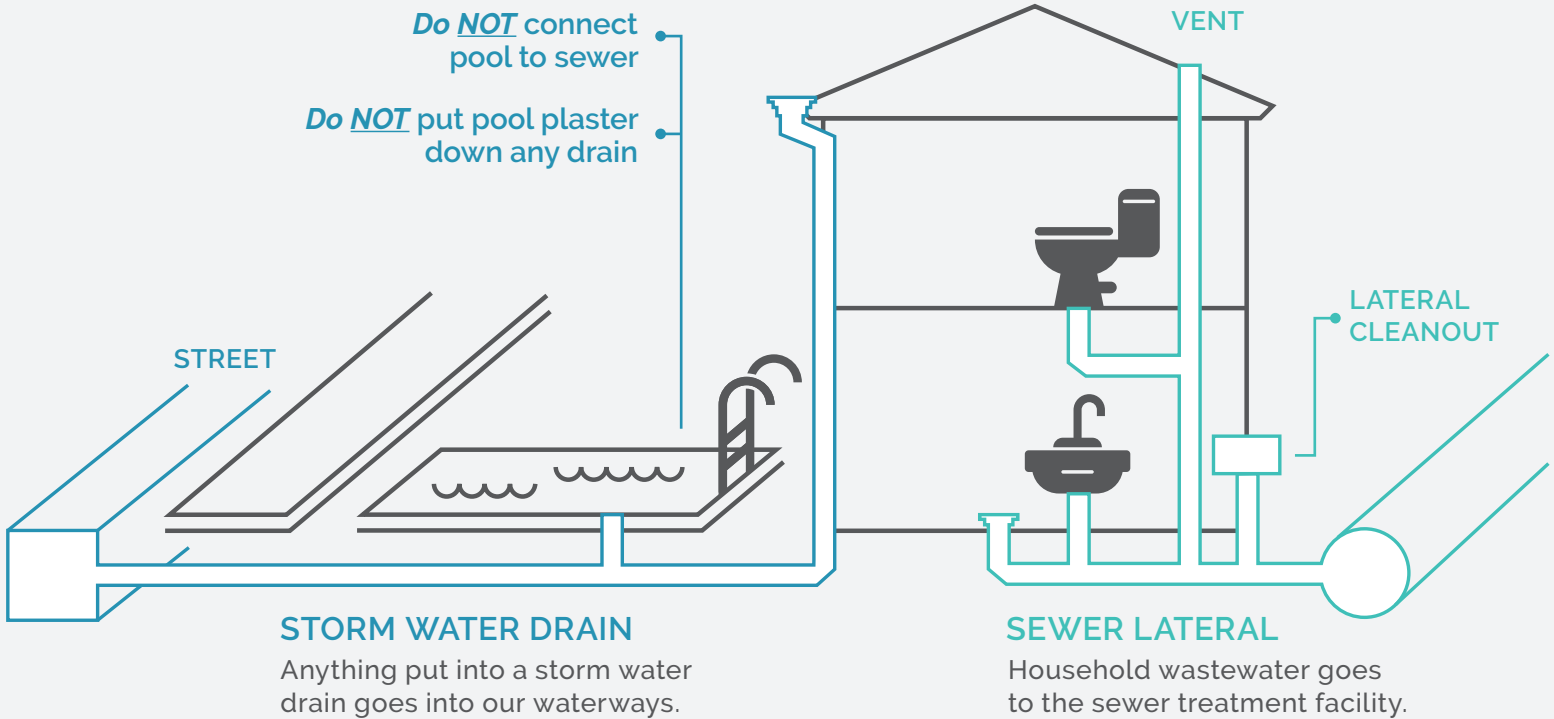
Homeowner Craig Hooker receives his lateral grant check from Field Services Specialist Ian Riffel



Large root inside Mr. Hooker's sewer lateral

# Sewer vs. Storm Drain Connections

Getting everything properly connected can seem overwhelming. But by adhering to these basic guidelines, you'll be on the right track.



## Schedule a Tour!

Tours offer an opportunity for customers, community groups, and local schools to meet our Field Services Technicians and learn more about the work they do and how we protect our local beaches and lagoons. Over the last several months, we have hosted five schools at our facility to demonstrate how we collect, transport and treat wastewater, and how we maintain the Districts wastewater system. If you are a teacher, please think about scheduling a tour for your students during the upcoming school year.

Call (760) 753-0155 or email [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) to schedule a tour.



Students from Pacific Ridge Middle School see a demonstration of how the Field Service Technicians televise a sewer line



## Now Accepting Teacher Grant Applications!



El Camino Creek Elementary students use their 2018/19 Teacher Grant funds to grow produce with their new hydroponics system.

The District is now accepting Teacher Grant applications for the new school year! Help us get the word out to teachers that can benefit from this program. Submit your Teacher Grant application by the deadline Wednesday, October 30, 2019. The District anticipates awarding up to three grants up to \$2,000 each. This will be the District's 11th year helping local teachers by awarding grant funds to support their water resource, water reuse, and environmental projects. For a list of eligible schools, the application and the instructions, check out our Teacher Grant website page at [bit.ly/lwdteachergrant](http://bit.ly/lwdteachergrant).

## State CSDA—Students can win up to a \$2,000 Scholarship



The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is hosting a video contest as part of their "Districts Make the Difference" campaign— [bit.ly/2JmytrP](http://bit.ly/2JmytrP). The contest is open to all high school and college students in California and videos should highlight how special districts make a difference in California's communities. Winners receive up to a \$2,000 scholarship!

**Submit your 60-90 second video here:**

[www.districtsmakethedifference.org/video-contest](http://www.districtsmakethedifference.org/video-contest)  
**by September 30, 2019 5:00pm.**

Visit [www.districtsmakethedifference.org/video-contest](http://www.districtsmakethedifference.org/video-contest) for full set of contest rules.

## Capital Project Underway this Summer

### Batiquitos (B3) Force Main Discharge Section Replacement Project

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The B3 pipeline is located in the coastal area of Carlsbad just east of Highway 101. B3 is a very important pipeline because it transmits 5 million gallons per day of wastewater to the Encina Wastewater Treatment Plant, which represents all of the District's flow as well as flows from the north portions of the City of Encinitas. The pipeline is made of iron and recent assessments have shown that the northern end of the pipe near the Lanikai Mobile Home Community has sustained significant corrosion. The District plans to replace approximately 800 feet of the corroded B3 pipeline prior to having a failure occur.

#### LOCATION OF PROJECT

This project is located between north bound Carlsbad Blvd (Highway 101) and the Ponto Drive frontage road, along the Lanikai Mobile Home Park community. **This project will not affect traffic since the work will be done in the shoulder.**

#### TIMELINE

Construction began in early August and is anticipated to be complete before the Labor Day weekend.

PHOTO: Portions of the iron Force Main were replaced with PVC pipe due to internal corrosion





## Ponto Beach Webcam

Check out Ponto Beach from the comfort of your home through the District's Webcam at [bit.ly/pontosurfcam](https://bit.ly/pontosurfcam). Check out the surf, sun and parking before heading out to the beach.

The webcam is located on top of our Batiquitos Pump Station right across the highway from the beach. Interesting note, an osprey has recently taken an interest in our webcam location and our technicians have seen the osprey perched on top of it.

## Why Do We Need Access to Sewer Easements?

To better serve our customers, we occasionally need to access public sewer easements on private property. Routine maintenance and repair work are essential to keeping the sewer system working properly. During emergency conditions, access to the easement area and the ability to work within it are absolutely essential.

A functioning sewage collection system is complex. Sewage must be collected from every dwelling within the District and routed many miles to the Encina Wastewater Authority Regional Treatment Plant through a vast system of sewer pipelines and pump stations. Sewer pipelines are located in many places. In some areas, entire neighborhoods were designed so that sewer systems were placed in backyards rather than in the street. Fortunately, most new systems are no longer designed that way. Still, it is necessary for LWD to access private property to get to sewer pipelines that may be located in a back, front or side yard. The ability to service and maintain LWD's manholes and piping ensures that the sewer system functions properly for you and the larger community.

**If you have a manhole in or near your yard or are planning an upgrade to your landscaping, please be sure to keep it free and clear of obstructions. We are available at (760) 753-0155 or [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) to answer any questions about access or maintenance. For emergencies call (760) 753-0155.**

By working together with our customers, the District can prevent sewage spills in our neighborhoods, on your property, or near Leucadia and Carlsbad's lagoons and beaches.

## Staff Awards

Our people are the most important part of protecting our coastline! We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff that has chosen to make a lifelong career out of protecting our community.

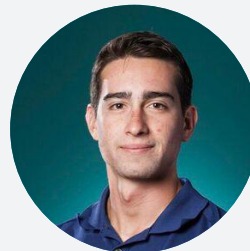
We would like to acknowledge three staff members who have achieved significant employment milestones this year. Join us in congratulating:

**James, Ryan and Curney!**



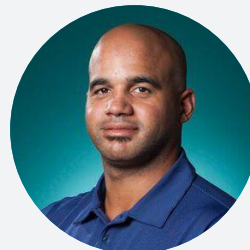
**James Hoyett**

30 Years of Service Award



**Ryan Rodriguez**

Associate's Degree in Wastewater Technology



**Curney Russell**

CWEA Collection System Maintenance Grade 2 certification & promoted to Field Service Technician 2



### District Achievement

Staff has gone **5 Years with No District Vehicle Accidents**

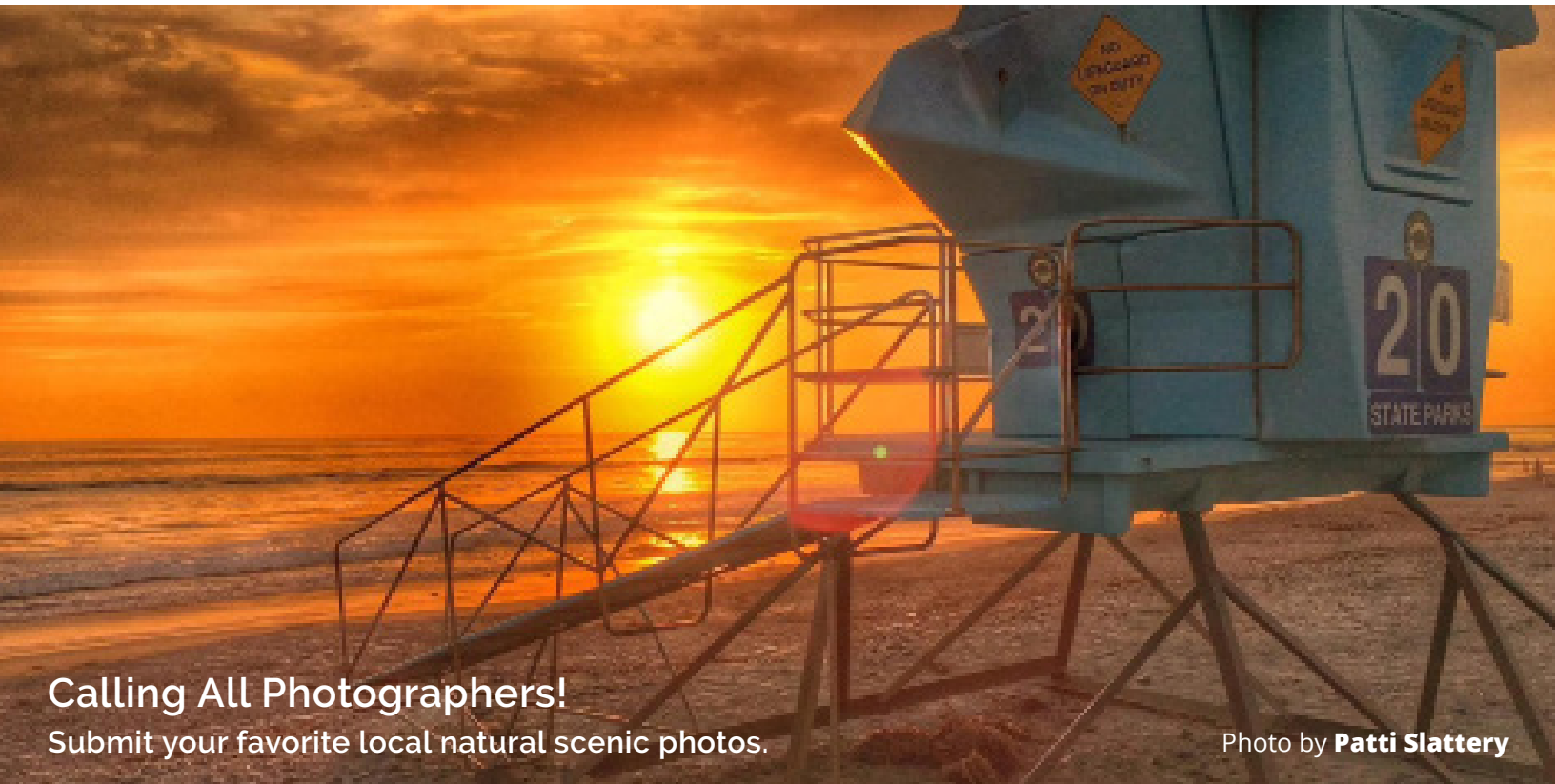
Considering our Field Services team includes **11 people**, runs **8 vehicles**, & spends over **10,000 hrs/year** on the road, it's quite an accomplishment that the District achieved this goal.

## Downstream

Semi-Annual Newsletter — Summer 2019

We hope you enjoyed our semi-annual newsletter! Please follow us on our Facebook page [@LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict) for construction and traffic updates and other local wastewater information, or email us at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org)

To subscribe and receive this newsletter digitally, please go to [bit.ly/LWWDSubscribe](https://bit.ly/LWWDSubscribe)



### Calling All Photographers!

Submit your favorite local natural scenic photos.

Photo by **Patti Slattery**

We loved the photos the community submitted in response to our last Downstream newsletter so we are asking for more! Please submit your favorite pictures from Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad by tagging a photo on Facebook with #LWDPPhoto or by

email to [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) and we may feature your photo(s) in an upcoming social post or newsletter. We will give recognition to any photo we use in any of our postings or newsletters.



### Leucadia Wastewater District Newsletter

Leaders in Environmental Protection, keeping our lagoons, beaches, and oceans clean and safe

Visit our website or Facebook page for Construction Updates that might affect traffic.

 [www.lwwd.org](http://www.lwwd.org)  [@LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict)