

**AGENDA**

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING  
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.  
Via Teleconference

Pursuant to the State of California Executive Order N-29-20, and in the interest of public health, the District is temporarily taking actions to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic by holding meetings by teleconference. The general public may not attend this meeting at the District's office due to social distancing requirements.

Members of the public attending via teleconference will be provided with an opportunity to comment on each agenda item prior to Committee discussion.

**To join this meeting via Zoom Teleconference please dial: (669) 900-6833  
Meeting ID: 899 4621 6157 Password: 683923**

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **New Business**
  - A. Spring 2021 Newsletter Draft Text. (Pages 2-8)
5. **Information Items**

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

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 1, 2021  
**TO:** Community Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Paul J. Bushee, General Manager   
**SUBJECT:** Spring 2021 Newsletter Draft Text Review

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Spring 2021 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

**DISCUSSION:**

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the spring 2021 newsletter to the CAC for comments. Staff and RTP have completed the draft newsletter text. Staff will present the proposed newsletter text at the CAC meeting.

Attached please find the draft text for the spring 2021 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

## Helping Teachers Educate Their Students!

Since 2008, the District has been providing teacher grants to local schools in our service area to help teachers fund educational activities relating to water resource management, water-reuse, or ocean pollution prevention.

Many of us at the District have kids in local area schools, or have raised families in our local communities, so we truly appreciate and admire the work that our teachers do to prepare our children for the future. Since its inception, our teacher grants have helped fund water resource related educational activities for over 17,000 kids. We were very pleased to receive several grant requests this year despite the challenges the teachers and students faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants awarded represent very innovative virtual and outdoor projects and were awarded to the following schools:

**Jennifer Smith** from El Camino Creek Elementary submitted her “Water Conservation Strategy” project for her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. Her students will learn about the environmental effects of importing water, find their “water footprint”, and employ conservation strategies to reduce their impact on water usage.

**Nancy Jois** from Capri Elementary submitted her “The Water Cycle Erosion” project to teach her kindergarten students about the water cycle, erosion, and landscaping in our Southern California climate. Her students will be able to do a hands-on project by creating individual water cycle models.

**June Honsberger** from La Costa Canyon High School submitted her “Native Tree Garden and Outdoor Classroom” project to teach her students about native trees and which varieties grow in our Southern California climate. Her project will also improve an unused space on campus by transforming it into a safe outdoor learning experience.

Congratulations to Jennifer, Nancy and June!

For more information about our Teacher Grant Program and to view past grantees project videos, please visit our website at [Teacher Grant Program | Leucadia Wastewater District \(lwwd.org\)](https://www.leucadia.org/teacher-grant-program).

### COVID-19 Detection in Wastewater

Did you know that individuals infected with COVID-19 shed the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in bodily waste that finds its way to the sewage system? Did you also know that COVID-19 can be detected in wastewater before the actual symptoms appear in individuals? Using Wastewater-Based Epidemiology (WBE), scientists can now test raw wastewater to track COVID-19 which allows communities to trace specific areas where a COVID-19 outbreak is occurring. Health agencies can use this information to limit the spread of this dangerous illness. Many California wastewater agencies, universities and private labs have begun testing wastewater for the COVID-19 virus, including our very own [University of California, San Diego](https://www.ucsd.edu/). While Leucadia Wastewater District has not yet tested its wastewater for COVID-19, we have partnered with other private and public agencies to seek grant funding for these efforts and will continue to pursue these opportunities in the future.

### What not to flush down your toilet or pour down your kitchen sink

Many items that you put down your drain can potentially negatively impact the environment and your home. Here are a few things that you should avoid putting down your drain:

- Paint and/or solvents.
- Unused medication.
- Rice or other absorbent foods.
- Clothing and/or fabric.



- “Flushable” Kitty Litter.
- “Flushable” multipurpose towels, wipes, or baby wipes.
- Coffee grounds, eggshells, and produce stickers.
- Fats, Oils and Grease known as FOG.

All of these items have the potential to clog your home’s drains and sewer lateral, which may lead to a sewer backup or sewer spill that can be harmful to the environment, our local beaches, and lagoons. Furthermore, the flushable wipes can damage wastewater equipment and infrastructure causing unnecessary public expense. We urge you to dispose of these items accordingly by placing them in the trash. FOG can be cooled and placed in any container. Once hardened, the container can be thrown away. For more info visit <https://www.lwwd.org/community-info/what-2-flush>

**Installing or resurfacing a pool? Please dispose of the remaining pool plaster properly!**

With summer ramping up and more people spending time at home, a pool is an alternative to the beach to enjoy our warm Southern California weather. Unfortunately, our technicians are finding left-over pool plaster from pool projects that has hardened in our sewers. You should never pour hardening materials like plaster down the drain. Even though they begin as a liquid, these “plasters” are cement-like material that can settle and harden in the sewer systems. They have the potential to cause pipeline blockages which can lead to sewer spills or sewer backups into your home. The discharge of these types of materials into sewers is prohibited and could lead to costly fines. Please pay close attention to your pool company or contractor and ensure they dispose of this material properly. Please contact us at (760) 753-0155 for more information or to report a problem. Thank you for your help!

**State of the Art Equipment will help the District maintain Hard to Reach Pipelines**

The District maintains more than 220 miles of underground sewer pipes to serve our residents and businesses. Wastewater from your neighborhood flows through these sewer pipes and ultimately to the regional Encina Wastewater Plant for treatment. While most of our sewer pipes are located under public streets, some are located in difficult to reach areas such as canyons and private property.

These areas can be difficult for our large Vector combination trucks to access and can require our technicians to carry hoses and other heavy equipment long distances. The District recently purchased an innovative piece of equipment called an Easement Machine. The Easement Machine is a self-propelled machine that can extend up to 600 feet of hose to clean pipelines in those hard-to-reach areas. The easement machine is a cost-effective solution that will allow the District to clean those difficult areas more safely and by using less manpower to complete the task.

**Proposed Rate Increase**

The District utilizes a long-range Financial Plan to help guide its finances. The most recent update of the Financial Plan indicated that to meet the District’s future financial obligations and maintain our system’s infrastructure, a sewer service charge increase was required starting in July 2020. However, due to the severe economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the Board of Directors chose to postpone the scheduled rate increases. As such, the District has not had an increase for the past four years.

The District operates on a fiscal year basis that runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. The District is proposing rate increases for the next three fiscal years, which will pay for projected operating infrastructure costs of \$51 million over this period. All rates are based on the standard fee for



one home, referred to as one Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). The District's current rate is \$28.64 per month or \$343.68 per year and is **currently the lowest rate in San Diego County**. By comparison, the average San Diego County sewer charge is \$53.06 per month or \$636.72 per year.

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing via Teleconference on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, starting at 5:00 p.m. to consider public input on the proposed sewer service charge rates for the next three fiscal years. The Zoom teleconference information will be posted on the District website 72 hours prior to the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. If approved, rate increases will be adjusted on July 1st of each year in accordance with the following table:

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>ANNUAL RATE</b>	<b>MONTHLY RATE</b>
2021(Current)	\$343.68	\$28.64
2022	\$378.04	\$31.50
2023	\$415.84	\$34.65
2024	\$457.42	\$38.12

### **Smoke Testing Reveals Improper Connection to the Sewer System**

Improper connections often allow extra storm-water to enter the sewer system, which can potentially exceed the system's capacity and lead to sewage spills. Smoke testing is a technology where a non-hazardous smoke vapor is injected into sewer pipelines to detect potential improper connections. The non-hazardous smoke flows through the pipelines and private laterals, and, if properly connected, should flow out of the roof vents of businesses and residences. If the smoke doesn't flow out the roof vents, there could be an improper connection which would allow stormwater into the system.

During fall of 2020, the District notified residents and businesses that smoke testing was to be performed in the Leucadia area of Encinitas. This area was chosen because the District's flow metering program detected higher than usual sewer flows during heavy rain-fall events. To view the District's smoke testing video, check out the District's website at: [Smoke Testing | Leucadia Wastewater District \(lwwd.org\)](https://www.lwwd.org/smoke-testing-leucadia-wastewater-district)

The results indicated that there were over 50 sewer defects on private property, as well as a few improper connections. The majority of these defects consisted of broken private laterals and cleanouts, and have been addressed by the homeowners. We appreciate the homeowners working with the District to resolve these issues. As a courtesy, the District is assisting homeowners by replacing their broken or missing clean-out caps located on their property.

### **Join Us for a Virtual Tour**

While we miss hosting you at our headquarters in La Costa, we would love to show you how our team keeps our sewer operations running 24 hours a day. Join in from the comfort of your home to see how our pump stations work right below our streets, how we recycle water to be reused to irrigate a local golf course, and meet the team that makes it happen. Check out our Virtual Tour video and feel free to share with your family too. **\*\* [LWD Virtual Tour | Leucadia Wastewater District \(lwwd.org\)](https://www.lwwd.org/virtual-tour) \*\***

### **Did you know?**

- The District collects and pumps almost 4 million gallons of wastewater per day (MGD) to the Encina Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- How long does it take for wastewater from your household to get to the Encina Wastewater Treatment Plant? Depending on where you are in the system, it can take up to 12 hours for the water from your home or business to the Encina Plant for treatment.
- This year, we recycled 250-acre feet of water which is equivalent to about 81 million gallons. That's enough to cover about 250 football fields with one foot of water.

**District's Lateral Grant Program Assists Another Homeowner  
Homeowner Receives \$2,895 Grant to Help Repair Private Sewer Lateral**

In October 2020, Grant Hoxworth was in escrow on a home in the District's service area. Due to the current owner's plumbing history of the property, Grant decided to have a camera inspection performed on the private sewer lateral and contacted a local plumbing company. During the camera inspection, the plumbing company discovered a root mass in the sewer lateral that had the potential to cause a sewer backup. Fortunately, this issue was discovered before a sewer backup occurred and while Mr. Hoxworth was still in escrow. The plumbing company advised Mr. Hoxworth of the District's Lateral Grant Program and he applied immediately. The financial assistance provided by the Lateral Grant Program helped Mr. Hoxworth with the necessary repairs. The District awarded a sewer lateral grant of \$2,895 to help offset some of the repair costs. Mr. Hoxworth stated "the overall process was pretty easy, including the communication with the District." Reducing sewer laterals spills protects the environment as well as human and animal life.

Since July 2020, we are pleased to report that the District has funded approximately \$45,000 in lateral grants to 20 homeowners, like Mr. Hoxworth, to help with their sewer lateral repairs. The District will pay half the cost of lateral repairs up to \$3,000 on pre-approved projects.

To Learn more about the District's [Lateral Grant Program](#), please visit the District website at [bit.ly/latgrant](http://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 happy to help!

**Check out the District's Enhanced Website**

The District recently completed a significant update to its website, [www.lwwd.org](http://www.lwwd.org). The site hadn't been updated since 2014, so it was due for a fresh look and feel. The District is proud to highlight the amazing photography of our community. Among other things, it is easier to navigate and provides a snapshot of what is posted on the District's [Facebook](#) page. You can also view other important information, such as current job openings, public hearing notices and notices inviting bids for projects, equipment or services.

As always, you can view the webcam that points right at the Ponto Beach surf! <https://www.lwwd.org/community-info/surf-cam-0>

**District Infrastructure Improvement Projects – Replacing Critical Infrastructure Before It Fails**

***Fiscal Year 2021 Cured-In-Place Pipe Lining Project:***

This Project includes the repair of 29 sites throughout our service area that includes over 1.25 miles of pipeline. These repairs keep the District's infrastructure sound by eliminating defects in our pipes and avoiding sewer spills. Construction will occur between Spring 2021 and Summer 2021. Minor traffic impacts may occur during construction so please check our Facebook page for updates.



***Leucadia Pump Station Rehabilitation Project:***

The Leucadia Pump Station is located on the District's headquarters site, pumps approximately 3.2 million gallons of wastewater per day and is the District's second largest pump station. It receives flows from the southeastern portion of Carlsbad and the eastern portion of Encinitas. The project includes the replacement of all major pumps and equipment, as well as the installation of a state-of-the-art system for odor and corrosion control. The project will improve pump station resiliency, efficiency and reliability. Construction started in September 2020 and is expected to be completed by June 2021.

***Encinitas Estates Pump Station Replacement Project:***

The Encinitas Estates Pump Station is located in the Encinitas Estates residential area at the corner of Avenida De Las Adelsas and Oakbranch Drive. It was installed in 1974 and has reached its useful life. This project will completely replace the existing station. The project will improve collection system resiliency and reliability along with simplifying maintenance. Construction started in April 2021 and is anticipated to be completed by January 2022.

**Standout Achievements: Staff Awards, Professional Certs, District Awards**

We are honored to receive ongoing commendations and distinctions for the work the District does to protect our coastline and run an efficient operation.

*Congratulations to Field Services Technician James Hoyett on his Retirement!*

James Hoyett worked as a Field Services Technician III for the District for the past 31 years and retired this past winter. He played an important role in the District's many successes during that time, such as: numerous other local and state awards for its collection system and major upgrades and improvements that have been integral to the District's outstanding record of protecting the environment. We thank James for his outstanding service to the District and wish him all the best on his retirement!

*Congratulations to Field Services Technician Steve Krason for receiving his 20 years of service award!*

Steve Krason, one of the District's valued Field Services Technicians, recently celebrated 20 years with Leucadia Wastewater District. Steve has worked at the District since 2000 and he is known as the "guru and pump master" at the District. Thanks for 20 years, Steve!

*Congratulations to Executive Assistant Tianne Baity for receiving her 15 years of service award!*

Tianne Baity, the District's Executive Assistant, is celebrating 15 years with Leucadia Wastewater District. From 2006-2016, Tianne served as the District's Administrative Specialist, working her way to her current role as Executive Assistant. Thank you for 15 years, Tianne!

*Congratulations to Administrative Services Manager Richard Duffey for receiving his 5 years of service award!*

Richard Duffey, the District's Administrative Services Manager, is celebrating 5 years with Leucadia Wastewater District. He is a Certified Public Accountant with 45 years of government accounting experience. Thank you for 5 years, Richard!

***Recycled Water Customer of the Year Award from Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD)***

OMWD's award program recognizes individuals and businesses making a significant, positive impact in our communities, the San Diego region, or the water industry. We received this award for partnering with OMWD on a project to utilize recycled water for sewer cleaning and street sweeping. See our video of the award-winning project [here \(link to video\)](#)

## **Calling for More Local Photographers!**

One of your photos could be featured on the homepage of our updated website or our Facebook page. We love seeing our community through your eyes so please continue to submit your favorite pictures from Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad by tagging a photo on Facebook with #LWDPphoto or send an email to [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org). We will give recognition to any photo we use in any of our postings or newsletters.

## **Sign up for the online newsletter**

Subscribe to our email newsletter for biannual updates from the District, which include tips and resources for community members: <https://conta.cc/2T4pnUw>