

**AGENDA**

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING  
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Wednesday, May 5, 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: 839 5911 7661 Password: 486537**

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. New Business**  
A. 2021 Spring Newsletter Draft Layout Review. (Pages 2-8)
- 5. Information Items**  
None.
- 6. Directors' Comments**
- 7. General Manager's Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 30, 2021  
**TO:** Community Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Paul J. Bushee, General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Spring 2021 Newsletter Draft Layout Review

*RAP for PJB*

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

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

**DISCUSSION:**

During March 2021, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) developed a list of story ideas for the Spring 2021 newsletter, which was reviewed and approved by the CAC. During April 2021, the newsletter's draft text was prepared by staff, and was reviewed and approved by the CAC.

RTP and staff will present the proposed newsletter layout at the upcoming CAC meeting. Attached please find the draft layout for the Spring 2021 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB



# Continuing to Help Teachers Educate their Students!

*CAPTION: Through grant fund, students have learned about the importance of water use efficiency and recyclability.*

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 students. 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 impacted over 200 students this year and represent very innovative virtual and outdoor projects. Grants were awarded to the following schools:



**Jennifer Smith from El Camino Creek Elementary** submitted her **"Water Conservation Strategy"** project for her 4th 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, June and their students!**

For more information about our Teacher Grant Program and to view past grantees project videos, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/lwdteachergrant>



## 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 \(bit.ly/UCSDwbe\)](https://www.ucsd.edu/wbe). 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:

### DO NOT FLUSH OR POUR DOWN

 paint and/or solvents	 "flushable" multipurpose towels, wipes or baby wipes
 unused medication	 coffee grounds
 rice or other absorbent foods	 eggshells
 clothing and/or fabric	 produce stickers
 "flushable" kitty litter	 FOG (fats, oils and grease)

All of these items have the potential to clog your home's drains and sewer lateral, which may lead to a sewer backup into your home 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.

## 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.



## 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!

# 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 and 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.

FISCAL YEAR	ANNUAL RATE	MONTHLY RATE
2021 (current)	\$343.68	\$28.64
2022	\$378.04	\$31.50
2023	\$415.84	\$34.65
2024	\$457.42	\$38.12

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 9th meeting. If approved, rate increases will be adjusted on July 1st of each year in accordance with the table above.

## District Uses Smoke Testing to Ensure the Integrity of its 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: <http://bit.ly/Smoke-Testing>.

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.



CAPTION: Non-toxic smoke blowing into the sewer system



## 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 lateral 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 <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!

## Did you know?



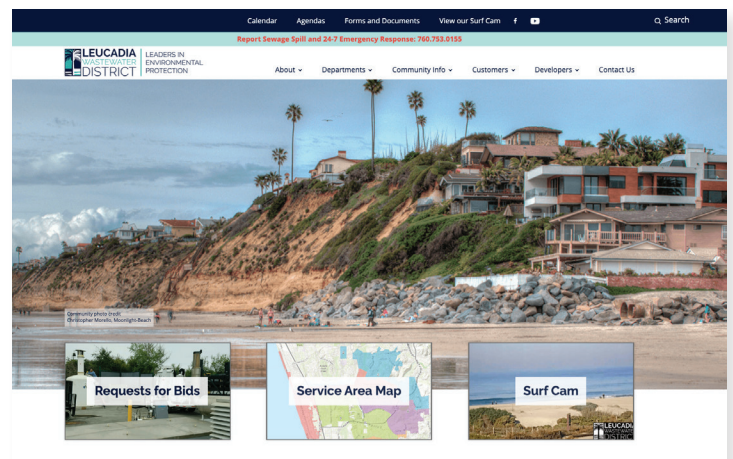
This year, we recycled **250-acre feet of water** which is equivalent to about 81 million gallons. That's enough to cover about 250 football fields with one foot of water.

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/LewicadiaDistrict) page (<http://bit.ly/LWDFB>). You can also view other important information, such as: current job openings, public hearing notices and bid invitations.

As always, you can view the webcam that points right at the Ponto Beach surf!

<http://bit.ly/pontosurfcam>.



## 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:

<http://bit.ly/LWDVirtualTour>.

# District Infrastructure Improvement Projects

## Proactively Replacing Critical Infrastructure

### 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.

### 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 Certifications, and 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.*



**James Hoyett**  
Field Services Technician

### 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. We acknowledge his dedication to his duties, as he always took the lead when he was called to set up and perform traffic control to ensure his fellow coworkers were properly trained and protected. **We thank James for his outstanding service to the District and wish him all the best on his retirement!**



**Ryan Rodriguez**  
Field Services Technician

*2020 Collections Person of the Year*  
CWEA San Diego Section Collections System



**Steve Krasen**  
Field Services Technician

*20 Years of Service Award*



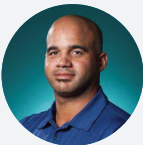
**Tianne Baity**  
Executive Assistant

*15 Years of Service Award*



**Richard Duffey**  
Administrative Services Manager

*5 Years of Service Award*



**Curney Russell**  
Field Services Technician

*5 Years of Service Award*



## District Award

### Recycled Water Customer of the Year

**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. See our video of the award-winning project here [bit.ly/OMWDproject](https://bit.ly/OMWDproject).



## Downstream

Semi-Annual Newsletter — Spring 2021

Subscribe to our email newsletter for biannual updates from the District, which include tips and resources for community members:

<http://bit.ly/LWDSUBSCRIBE>

## Calling for Local Photographers!

Submit your favorite  
local natural scenic photos.

Photo by **Eric O'Brien** of Encinitas Beach, Encinitas

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 [#LWDPhoto](#) 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.