

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 12:30 p.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: 894 0031 5375 Password: 651623**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **New Business**
 - A. Fall 2021 Newsletter Draft Text. (Pages 2-7)
5. **Information Items**

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 10, 2021
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager
SUBJECT: Fall 2021 Newsletter Draft Text Review



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

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

DISCUSSION:

On August 16th, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the fall 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 fall 2021 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

How Droughts Affect Wastewater Collection

On July 8, 2021, the Governor announced California is experiencing another drought and water agencies throughout the state are asking us to conserve water. Unlike other natural disasters such as, wildfires, earthquakes, floods and severe weather events, droughts do not occur over a few days. It takes months to determine when a drought has begun and ended. Thus, we may not be immediately impacted by this event, but over time the impacts to the public health, the economy, and the environment can be potentially significant.

As a public wastewater agency, the impacts of a drought have an effect on our operations, equipment, and ultimately the budget. Therefore, we too have to adapt to the new normal and prepare for this type of event. Due to the community's water conservation efforts, less wastewater is flowing through the sewer pipes. When this occurs, there is potential for an increase in odors and root intrusions in sewer mains and homeowner's sewer laterals. A decrease in outdoor watering can mean that plants and trees will seek water elsewhere, mainly, inside of pipes.

When the wastewater is flowing at normal levels, odors can be kept at a minimum as it carries other materials with it, eventually ending up at a treatment facility. However, low flows means debris can settle in the pipes, creating stagnant odors.

To adjust to water conservation efforts, our operations team has increased its line cleaning, closed circuit TV operations, and root control activities. In addition to increased operation efforts, the District recently completed a \$3.5 million upgrade to the Leucadia Pump Station, at the District's headquarters. The project included the addition of a super-oxygenation system to help control odors.

Like in the past, if our field services technicians discover root intrusion or defects stemming from your home's lateral, the District will send you a notice in the mail informing you about the issue and asking you to contact a plumber. A plumber will determine if any repairs need to be made. If repairs are needed, the District offers a Lateral Grant that can fund up to 50% of the cost of your repairs, up to a maximum of \$3,000.

Leucadia Wastewater District Remembers Longtime Board Member Allan Juliussen

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our long-standing Board member, Allan Juliussen. Dedicated to public service, Allan dutifully served on the Leucadia Wastewater District Board of Directors from 1992 to 2004, and, served again from 2005 to 2021. During his 28 years of service, he was a dedicated member of several committees and served as Board President and Vice President for multiple terms.

Under Allan's leadership, the District achieved numerous accomplishments, including the construction upgrades to the Gafner Water Recycling Facility and the District headquarters building, and several updates to the District's Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan. Allan also served as Leucadia's representative on the Encina Wastewater Authority Board of Directors where under his stewardship Encina completed a number of significant infrastructure projects such as: the Phase V Plant Expansion, the innovative Biosolids Heat Drying Recycling Facility; and Encina's Administrative Building Project.

In addition to his public service locally, Allan proudly served our country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. Allan valiantly served two-tours in the Vietnam War where he operated as a “tunnel rat” performing intelligence work in underground enemy tunnels on a number of very dangerous missions.

Allan was a well-rounded and versatile person and one little-known fact is that he was the original drummer of the song “Wipeout”. Allan was a member of a band in high school in Glendora, CA. The band had saved enough money to record a “45” record at a local studio that included the songs “Surfer Joe” and “Wipeout”. The young band sold the rights to the songs for \$15,000, which they thought was a lot of money at that time, and it was later recorded and made famous by the “Surfaris”.

Allan will be missed by his fellow board members, staff members, and the community he faithfully served. He will be remembered for his many contributions to the District.

Resiliency Plan for Unexpected Natural Disasters

To help safeguard the District’s infrastructure and plan for natural disasters, the District developed a Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation Plan. The Plan was recently updated in February 2021 to reflect the most recent information on natural hazards ranging from rising tides to wildfires. In addition, the updated Plan included ongoing capital projects that the District implemented to mitigate natural hazards, such as, installation of new pumps that can run underwater, vegetation management and the installation of flexible couplings on pipes at railroad crossings designed to withstand earthquakes. To view the Plan, please visit (insert link).

Did you know?

- The Gafner facility presently produces 86 million gallons of recycled water per year, which is used to irrigate the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa Golf Course.
- Our Gafner Water Reclamation Facility is named after Forest Gafner. She served on the first Board of Directors, and helped bring safe treatment and disposal of wastewater to the area, which had previously relied on septic tanks.

Take a Look at our Award-winning Virtual Tour!

The District announced its virtual tour in February 2021, which has reached more than 2,800 views. While we miss hosting you at our headquarters in La Costa, we thank you for your continued interest in how we protect the environment from sewer spills. We’re pleased to announce that the District was recently recognized by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies for its virtual tour. If you have not viewed the virtual tour yet, you may watch it here and feel free to share it with your family. [LWD Virtual Tour | Leucadia Wastewater District \(lwwd.org\)](#)

Ponto Beach Webcam

Check out Ponto Beach from the comfort of your home through the District’s webcam at bit.ly/pontosurfcam. View the surf, sun and parking before heading out to the beach.

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

The District is currently working on several projects to keep our wastewater system in top working condition. Below is the status of two key projects.

Leucadia Pump Station Rehabilitation Project:

The Leucadia Pump Station is located on the District's campus, pumps approximately 3.2 million gallons of wastewater per day and is the District's second largest pump station. It services the southeastern portion of Carlsbad and the eastern portion of Encinitas. The project was completed in early August of 2021. As part of the project, a state of the art "super-oxygenation" system was constructed to infuse oxygen gas into wastewater to prevent the formation of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas. Reducing H₂S prevents odors, internal corrosion of metal pipes, and improve worker safety. As a result, collection system reliability, resiliency, and integrity is improved.

Fiscal Year 2022 Gravity Sewer Repairs Project:

This Project includes the repair of nine sites throughout our service area that includes five new manholes. These repairs will ensure proper flow in the sewer pipes as well as provide the Field Services staff easier access to the sewer infrastructure. Minor traffic impacts may occur at some sites during construction, between Spring 2022 and Summer 2022. Please check the District's Facebook for updates on the project.

Reminder - Do Not Pour Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Down the Kitchen Sink!

Can It! Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Can Cause a Sewage Backup!

With the holiday season fast approaching, there's sure to be lots of cooking with plenty of oil, so be sure to keep a lid on it - a FOG can lid that is. The correct way to dispose of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) is by letting them cool, pouring them in a can, and sealing the can with a lid. Once cooled and hardened, the can should be discarded in the trash. Wipe the FOG from pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing them. Pouring FOG down your drain can potentially cause a sewer backup in your home and may lead to a sewer spill. Don't have a lid? Don't fret! Write to us at info@lwwd.org to get your own can topper and celebrate in style while doing your part to protect the local community. Happy holidays from Leucadia Wastewater District!

Exciting Partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD)

During the Leucadia Pump Station Rehabilitation Project, OMWD assisted the District by opening a large valve that could not be opened manually, with their specialized truck that includes hydraulic valve-turning equipment. Since the District does not own this type of truck or has trained staff to operate this type of equipment, we reached out to OMWD for assistance and they successfully opened the valve. The District appreciated OMWD's help. In fact, OMWD has been recruited to help the District in the future with exercising three large valves at our two largest pump stations on a periodic basis. The District in turn offered to provide services to clean two of their pump station tanks using our combination hydro-cleaning vacuum truck. This mutual aid agreement is a win-win for both agencies, demonstrating effective collaboration between local public agencies.

Homeowner Receives \$1,045 Sewer Lateral Grant

In August 2021, District's customer Abbie Deaton received a sewer lateral grant of \$1,045. Abbie contacted the District for sewer lateral information when she was in the process of having a plumbing company repair a sewer cleanout with major root intrusion at her residence. She was pleasantly surprised to hear about the District Lateral Reimbursement Program. When asked about her feelings toward the program, Abbie said the District and the reimbursement were "unexpected blessings."

To Learn more about the District's Lateral Grant Program, please visit the District's 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!

Welcome to our New Employees!

New Team Members join our efforts to be a recognized leader in wastewater services, water recycling and environmental protection.

Kelly Gil, Accounting Technician

Kelly has more than 15 years of accounting experience, working in both private and public sectors. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in professional business administration at Cal State Fullerton. She was drawn to the District because of our excellent team environment, professionalism and dedication to the community. She is looking forward to learning more about the wastewater industry to help progress her career at the District. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family, camping, and being outdoors.

Johnny Montoya, Field Services Technician In Training

Johnny is our most recent new employee, joining the team during September 2021. Johnny holds a Class A truck driving license and has worked in the recycling industry for more than 7 years. When he is not at work, he enjoys spending quality time with his daughter and taking her to the beach. His love for the beach and being outdoors, biking, hiking and camping inspires him to protect our local beaches and environment. He is excited to join the District and learn more about how to protect the local beaches and environment from sewer spills.

Congratulations to Administrative Services Manager Richard Duffey on His Retirement!

Richard Duffey worked as an Administrative Services Manager for the District for more than 5 years, but prior to that he worked with LWD staff for more than 25 years as a financial consultant and auditor. He retired this summer and he will be greatly missed. He has played an important role in the District's many successes including our numerous local and state awards for the collection system, many successful financial audits, maintaining one of the lowest sewer service rates in San Diego County, and numerous recognitions for excellence in financial reporting.

We commend Richard for his outstanding service and commitment to the District. We wish Richard all the best on his retirement!

District Awards and Achievements

The District and its staff are honored to receive the following awards and recognitions:

Public Outreach and Education Award for Small Agency – Virtual Tour Video

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) recognized the District for its virtual tour video at their Annual Conference during August 2021.

District Transparency Certificate of Excellence Program

The Special District Leadership Foundation recently recognized the District for its dedication to being fully transparent, open, and accessible to the public and stakeholders.

District of Distinction, Platinum Level Accreditation by the California Special District Leadership Foundation

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association recently recognized the District for its outstanding financial reporting practices.

Congratulations to Administrative Services Supervisor Trisha Hill for receiving her 20 years of service award!

Congratulations to Field Services Technician Gabe Mendez for receiving his 10 years of service award!

Year End Stats for Fiscal Year 2021

- 96 miles of pipeline video inspected
- 213 miles of pipe cleaned
- 321 acre-feet or 105 million gallons of recycled water produced

Calling for More Local Photographers!

Have you seen one of your photos on our Facebook page? Maybe you were featured on the cover of our newsletter? 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**. 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>