

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Friday, September 16, 2022 – 10:00 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: 881 4446 2873 Password: 805860

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **New Business**
 - A. Fall 2022 Newsletter Draft Text. (Pages 2-8)
5. **Information Items**

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 2022
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager
SUBJECT: Fall 2022 Newsletter Draft Text Review



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Fall 2022 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

On July 25th, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the fall 2022 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 2022 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

Grease balls found in sewer pipeline on El Camino Real

Safely transporting and treating the wastewater from our customers without sewer spills is the District's number one priority. Our Field Services team works 24/7 conducting inspections and maintenance of the sewer pipes to ensure wastewater flows through the pipeline without obstruction. This summer, while video inspecting and hydro-cleaning the sewer pipe on El Camino Real, our Field Services found multiple grease balls each about two feet long at Leucadia Boulevard. These grease balls had created a blockage, with the potential to cause a sewer spill. The Field Services team spent several hours clearing, recovering, and disposing of the large grease ball.

Please help us prevent sewer spills by properly disposing of fats, oil, and grease (FOG). The correct way to dispose of 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 or sink can potentially cause a sewer back up in your home and may lead to a sewer spill.

In a drought, you have to help out!

California's water is a critical resource to human health, economic vitality, and the environmental quality of our state. As the drought worsens, we hope to inspire our community to be water wise and conserve water.

The District minimizes water usage everyday by recycling water for irrigation at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa's golf course. A portion of the treated wastewater at Encina Water Pollution Control Facility is pumped back to the District, where it is further treated to a level that is safe for recycling before it is sent to the golf course. We produce approximately 80-100 million gallons of recycled water per year at our Gafner recycled water plant, which helps conserve our drinking water supply.

Some ways you can save water include fixing leaks, planting drought-resistant plants, taking shorter showers, installing drip irrigation and harvesting rain.

Harvest your rain, not down the drain

With the rainy season coming up, now is a good time to be water smart. This includes making sure you don't have any illegal connections where rainwater and stormwater may flow into the sewer line. These include connections from roof and yard drains into the sewer cleanout on your property. You should also adjust your sprinklers accordingly and take advantage of the opportunity to harvest rainwater with assistance from local rebates from the Solana Center and San Diego County Water Authority. Find more information on rain harvesting at <https://bit.ly/RainwaterConservation>, and more water smart tips at <https://bit.ly/WatersmartTips>.

Learn other simple ways to conserve water at <https://bit.ly/SaveOurWaterCA>.

Follow the flow of your wastewater

While you may know that the District maintains and operates the sewer system that connects to your sewer lateral, do you know where all the wastewater goes? From your lateral, wastewater travels through a series of pipes and pump stations throughout Encinitas and Carlsbad, and eventually reaches the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility, which is operated by the Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA). You may have seen the facility west of Interstate 5 and south of Palomar Airport Road. This facility treats water from nearly 380,000 North County residents and is jointly owned by the cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, and Vista, the Leucadia Wastewater District, Buena Sanitation District and the Vallecitos Water District.

One of the most critical and least visible parts of the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility's infrastructure is the Ocean Outfall. Wastewater is treated to high standards and discharged to the Pacific Ocean through this pipeline, which extends approximately 1.5 miles offshore to a depth of about 150 feet. At this depth and dilution rate, the oceans natural cleaning capabilities take over and the treated water safely re-enters the environment. Learn more about Encina's Ocean Outfall at <http://bit.ly/EWAOverview>.

Now accepting teacher grant applications!

The District is accepting Teacher Grant applications for the 2022-23 school year! Help us get the word out to teachers who can benefit from this program. Submit your Teacher Grant application by Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. This will be the District's 14th year helping local teachers by awarding grant funds to support their environmental projects. Check out our Teacher Grant webpage at <http://bit.ly/lwdteachergrant> for an application, instructions, and a list of the eligible schools that are in our service district. See the projects of the 2021-22 winners at <https://bit.ly/22TeacherGrantWinners>.

Year-end stats 2022

65.4 miles of pipeline video inspected
182.8 miles of pipes cleaned
95 million gallons of recycled water produced

Pregnant sea lion found at Omni La Costa Resort & Spa

You may have read The San Diego Union-Tribune article and seen SeaWorld San Diego's photos of the pregnant sea lion that was rescued after wandering onto the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa's golf course before being released back into the water. This serves as a great reminder that wildlife and marine mammals are all around us, and it is our job to protect them and keep their home, the ocean, clean. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/carlsbadsealion>.

Did you know?

- Did you know that a 1,000-square-foot roof can generate approximately 620 gallons of water for every inch of rainfall?

Learn how you can capture rainwater at <https://bit.ly/RainwaterConservation>.

Take a look at our award-winning virtual tour!

Our award-winning virtual tour gives a great impression of what our staff does to keep our wastewater operations running 24 hours a day! If you have not yet viewed the virtual tour, you can watch it at <https://bit.ly/LWDvirtualtour>.

Did you hear? We are offering in person tours again!

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. If you are a teacher, consider scheduling a tour for your students. Call 760-753-0155 or email info@lwwd.org to schedule a tour.

Ever wondered what our hardworking staff is up to when you see them on the street or in your neighborhood?

Watch this video to learn more about the maintenance required at the Encinitas Estates and Batiquitos Pump Stations at <http://bit.ly/lwdpumpstations>.

Surf's up at Ponto Beach

Check out Ponto Beach from the comfort of your home through the District's webcam at <http://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.

Completion of Encinitas Estates pump station project

The District recently completed the replacement of the Encinitas Estates pump station which is located in the Encinitas Estates residential area at the corner of Oakbranch Drive and Avenida De Las Adelsas. This station pumps approximately 333,000 gallons of wastewater per day. New electric submersible pumps replaced the 48 year old pump station in April 2022. New piping, valves, electrical controls and a new replacement generator were included with the new pump station. The planned infrastructure replacement is part of the District's long-term asset replacement plan, or "Asset Management Plan" to maintain collection system reliability, integrity, and resiliency.

Village Park Encinitas pump station upgrade project

The next major project in the District Asset Management Plan is the replacement of Village Park No. 7 Pump Station, which is 49 years old. The pump station is located in the Village Park residential area of Encinitas, adjacent to the corner of Mountain Vista Drive and Whitewood Place.

This pump station is the District's smallest, making it rather unique. After exploring all replacement options, the Board approved replacing the current station with an innovative, pre-fabricated station - saving an estimated \$1.31 million, which is 62% less than expected! The new pump station will use less electricity with much smaller pumps.

Onsite construction is anticipated to begin in November 2022 with little to no impact on traffic. Follow project updates on the District's Facebook at <http://bit.ly/FBpageLWD>.

Fiscal year 2023 gravity sewer repairs project

This project will repair 34 sites throughout our service area and cover over 1.5 miles of existing sewer pipeline. The pipes will be rehabilitated by relining the inside of the pipe without digging trenches, a method called Cured-In-Place Pipe lining. These repairs reinforce a sound sewer system by continuing to allow sewage to flow unrestricted in the pipes. Minor traffic impacts may occur at each site during construction which will occur from winter 2022 through spring 2023.

Homeowner receives \$2,644 sewer lateral grant to help repair private sewer lateral

In July 2022, LWD customer Bryan Marcus had a neighbor who experienced a private sewer lateral blockage due to root intrusion from a big tree in the neighbor's front yard. Although Marcus had not experienced any sewer lateral issues, he decided to have a camera inspection because his property has a big tree in the front yard. During the camera inspection the plumbing company discovered his sewer lateral had a problem that could cause a backup. Financial assistance provided by the Lateral Grant Program helped Marcus and his family with the unexpected repair. Marcus said, "there are a lot of spokes in the wheel (during a plumbing issue), but the District simplified the process. I was impressed with the customer service, communication, and turnaround time."

In 2022, the District funded approximately \$55,000 in lateral grants to 24 homeowners to help with their sewer lateral repairs. The District will pay half the cost of lateral repairs up to \$3,000 on approved projects. Reducing sewer lateral spills protects the environment as well as human and animal life.

To learn more about the District's Lateral Grant Program, visit the District website at bit.ly/latgrant or call us at (760) 753-0155. The lateral grant must be pre-approved, so 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.

Nitze Torres Garcia, Administrative Specialist

Before joining the team in April 2022, Nitze spent 10 years as an Administrative Assistant in the healthcare industry in both the public and private sectors. She is grateful to be a part of a District that sets high ethical business standards and takes pride in being good stewards of the environment. Nitze looks forward to learning more about conservation and about the wastewater industry. She enjoys serving as a reader and volunteering in youth ministry at her local parish. Her greatest joy is being a mom and spending time with her family.

Jeffrey Pivaral, Field Services Technician In Training

Jeffrey is our newest employee, joining the team in June 2022. Jeffrey moved to the North County area after working for UCLA for 10 years. When he is not at work he enjoys spending quality time with his wife and family. He loves having barbecues and riding beach cruisers at the beach. His love for the beach and being outdoors, biking, and hiking 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.

District Awards and Achievements

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

Congratulations to Field Services Technician Johnny Montoya! A well-deserved congratulations to Field Services Technician Johnny Montoya for receiving his Water Treatment Operator Grade T1 certification from the State Water Resources Control Board and Grade 1 Collection System Maintenance certification from the California Water Environment Association!

One Year Without Lost Time Work-Related Injuries

Thank you to our team for taking safety seriously and to the community for looking out for our team whenever you see them working in your community.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association recently recognized the District for its outstanding financial reporting practices for the 12th year in a row!

In a drought, you have to help out!

Inside this newsletter, read about how the District responds to drought and what you can do to reduce water usage.

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 includes tips and resources for community members: <https://conta.cc/2T4pnUw>