

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Tuesday, September 12 – 2:00 p.m.
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Fall 2023 Newsletter Draft Layout Review. (Pages 2-6)**
5. **Information Items**
None.
6. **Directors' Comments**
7. **General Manager's Comments**
8. **Adjournment**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2023
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager
SUBJECT: **Fall 2023 Newsletter Draft Text Review**



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Fall 2023 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

On August 2nd, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the fall 2023 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 2023 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

Leucadia Wastewater District 2023 Fall Newsletter Articles

Beneath the Surface

The Importance of Manholes and Easement Inspections

We're responsible for maintaining over 200 miles of sewer lines, most are located under the streets, but some run through private property. In order to maintain pipelines on private property, the District owns easements, which are essentially paths above the sewer line that allow District staff to access the area. These paths are regularly maintained (generally twice a year) to make sure we have easy access to manholes. Having easy access to manholes is critically important because it allows our Field Services Technicians (FSTs) to clean out and inspect the District's sewer lines, ultimately helping us prevent sewer spills.

How would you know if there's an easement on your property? Our team will let you know we would like to access an easement by hanging a notice on your front door. If you receive a notice from us, please contact us at the number on the door hanger to schedule your sewer line easement inspection. We will coordinate with you to schedule a time to inspect and clear any obstructions that may be inside the sewer line.

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 to answer any questions about access, maintenance, or in an emergency.

Watch our new video showcasing our dedicated FSTs in action as they clean up an easement in a local canyon. It's a true testament to the power of teamwork and our dedication to environmental stewardship! Learn more: <https://bit.ly/MaintainingEasements>.

Rain Ready Insider Tips

Ensuring you're rain ready this fall season is not just about staying dry – it's a critical step to prevent sewer spills and safeguard our environment.

Below is a checklist of ways to make sure you are rain ready:

- ✓ Start capturing rainwater with a rain barrel to store water for later use and to help reduce overflow on your property! Using rain barrels can help reduce rain runoff from flowing down your driveway, street and sidewalks. By capturing fresh rainwater in the barrel first, you minimize the chance of stormwater runoff picking up harmful pollutants that could reach our beaches and waterways. More information here about rainwater conservation: <https://bit.ly/RainwaterConservation>.
- ✓ Proactively turn off irrigation to save water and minimize runoff.
- ✓ Do not open or lift manhole covers in the event of street flooding.
- ✓ Do not connect your home's rain gutter downspouts or drainage pipes to cleanouts.
- ✓ Repair or replace broken cleanout caps.

Explore the Amazing World of Wastewater on Instagram

Did you know the District has an Instagram account? Our username is @leucadiawastewater! Follow our Instagram to learn how we collect and transport over 4 million gallons of wastewater daily - 24/7, 365 days a year. We will be sharing environmental tips, photos and videos of our wastewater process, public service announcements, imagery that you send us and much more! Follow here: <https://bit.ly/LWDIG>.

Apply for our Teacher Grant Program!

Attention educators! Our Teacher Grant Program is back, and we're excited to help you educate the next generation about wastewater, recycled water and the importance of water conservation. Apply by November 17 for a chance to have your hands-on learning experiences funded by the District. Each teacher grant winner will also have the unique opportunity to experience an in-person demonstration from our skilled Field Services Technicians. Full program details can be found here: <http://bit.ly/lwdteachergrant>.

Did you know? Fact Options

Option 1) Did you know it takes between 2 ½ to 7 ½ hours, depending on where you are located, for your wastewater to travel from your home or business to the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility in Carlsbad? It is then treated at their facility to federally mandated standards before it is either recycled or released safely into the ocean.

Option 2) Did you know the small stickers on produce can create problems in the sewer system, potentially leading to clogs and extra maintenance costs? They can also clog up recycled water irrigation systems. They can stick to the inside your sewer pipes or clog the filters at our local treatment plant, the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility. When they clog the filters, additional maintenance is required causing extra costs for the public agency. Help your pipes, wallet, and the environment by throwing away the stickers found on your produce in the trash, not down your kitchen sink.

Check Out Our New Mural at an In-Person Tour!

Join us for an inspiring tour where you'll get a closer look at our daily operations, meet our Field Services Technicians, learn about how we protect our local beaches and lagoons, and discover our new coastal-themed mural. Local middle school art teachers Lori Davis and Nicholas Fitzgerald painted the interpretation of our coastal landscape, featuring the Batiquitos lagoon and south Carlsbad State beach. Tours are great for individuals, community groups, and local schools. Call 760-753-0155 or email info@lwwd.org to schedule a tour.

Stay FOG-Free!

Keeping Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Out of Your Sink

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 FOG is by letting it cool, pouring the FOG into a can, and sealing the can with a lid. Once cooled and hardened, the can should be discarded in the trash. Next, wipe the FOG from pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing them, and toss the paper towel in the trash. Pouring FOG

down your drain can cause a sewer backup in your home and may lead to a sewer spill. Feel free to stop by our office to pick up your own can topper to celebrate in style while doing your part to protect the local community. Happy holidays from Leucadia Wastewater District! More on FOG here: <https://bit.ly/FOGvideo>.

Smart Flush, Greener Future

Have you checked out the Responsible Flushing Alliance's website <https://bit.ly/RFAFlushSmart>? This website is a great resource where you can learn more about what not to flush and other useful tips. The site also has educational materials geared toward you and your kids.

You can also find tips about what you should avoid putting down your drain on our What 2 Flush webpage: <http://bit.ly/What2Flush>. Remember: A cleaner, more responsible California starts with all of us.

CIP/Field Services Maintenance/Development Updates

Rancho Verde Pump Station Rehabilitation Project

We're working on upgrading the Rancho Verde Pump Station! This station, serving The Ranch at Carlsbad community, is 27 years old and located at Camino Lindo and Calle Acervo in Carlsbad. The upgrade involves mechanical upgrades, electrical improvements, and site enhancements. This will enhance the pump station's performance, improve drainage and make it easier for our team to access. Construction is expected to start at the end of 2023.

Completion of the Village Park No. 7 Pump Station Upgrade

Good news! We finished replacing the Village Park No. 7 Pump station in June 2023. This pump station, located in the Village Park residential area of Encinitas, near the corner of Mountain Vista Drive and Whitewood Place got a makeover. We replaced the below-grade pump station with a new, smaller design, and installed a new high grade plastic pipe. The upgrade is expected to reduce electrical usage and costs, as well as boost the reliability of our wastewater system.

Leucadia (L1) Force Main Assessment

The L1 Force Main is one of the District's largest pipelines and conveys about 3 million gallons of wastewater per day below La Costa Avenue between El Camino Real and Highway 101. L1 is being assessed to determine its condition. Small sections will be removed at key points and inspected by corrosion experts to determine the remaining life of the pipe. We're dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our pipes to keep our beaches clean and safe!

Standout Achievements: Staff Awards, Professional Certs, District Awards

Public Outreach and Education Award for Small Agency—Emergency Preparedness Video

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) recognized the District for its emergency preparedness video at their Annual Conference during August 2023. Check out the video here: <https://bit.ly/TrainingDrillVideo>.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

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

Three Years without Lost Time Work-Related Injuries

Thanks to our safety-conscious team and supportive community, we've achieved three years without work-related injuries. Please keep looking out for our team whenever you see them working in your community.

Standout Achievements: Celebrating Our Team

Congratulations to General Manager Paul Bushee for receiving his 20 years of service award!

Hats off to Field Services Technician Hugo Gonzalez for receiving his 10 years of service award!

Kudos to Field Services Technician Rick Easton for receiving his 10 years of service award!

Congratulations to Field Services Technician Steve Krason for receiving second place for the California Water Environment Association Collection Systems Person of the Year award for the State of California. After receiving the CWEA award for Collection Systems Person of the Year in San Diego, Steve was recognized at the state level.

Are You Rain Ready?

Inside this newsletter, read about we maintain easements; get tips on how to prepare for a rainy winter, and other helpful resources for community members.

Call for More Local Photographers

Please continue to submit your favorite pictures from Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad by tagging a photo on Facebook with #DISTRICTPhoto or send an email to info@lwwd.org. You could be featured on our Facebook page or on the cover of our future newsletters. We give recognition to the artist of any photo used in our postings or newsletters.

Submit your favorite local natural scenic photos to info@lwwd.org.