



2024 WATER CAREER DAY: INSPIRING FUTURE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

The Leucadia Wastewater District, in partnership with the Olivenhain Municipal Water District and San Elijo Joint Powers Authority held its first ever Water Career Day on October 10th. The event took place at the San Elijo Water Campus in Cardiff and nearly 100 high school and junior college students, as well as military veterans attended. The goal of event was to create an awareness of the exceptional career opportunities that are available in the Wastewater and Water Industry.

The event was unique in that the attendees participated in a “hands-on” learning at interactive stations where students conducted lab tests, operated closed circuit television robots and assembled remotely monitored water meters.

One attendee remarked that “my favorite part was hearing the employees talk about their daily work.” Another student stated that he was interested in “helping the community and the environment” and that he would “gravitate toward working the lab.”

The Water Career Day was a resounding success and the Leucadia Wastewater District and its partner agencies have already begun discussions about turning this into an annual event!



Commitment to Sustainability: LWD's Continued Focus on Non-Potable Reuse

Following our Spring 2024 newsletter on potable reuse, it's important to highlight LWD's current focus and plans. While potable reuse is an innovative and essential solution for many regions, LWD remains dedicated to its successful non-potable reuse initiatives, with no foreseeable plans to implement a potable reuse project. Instead the District continues to operate its Gafner Water Recycling Facility, which plays an essential role in providing high-quality recycled water for irrigation.



LWD receives secondary treated water from the Encina Wastewater Authority, which it then treats to tertiary standards at the Gafner Facility. This comprehensive treatment process includes advanced filtration and disinfection, transforming wastewater into high-quality reclaimed water. On average the Gafner Facility produces about 80 million gallons of recycled water each year, specifically for the irrigation of the Omni La Costa Legends Golf Course. This helps maintain the lush greens and fairways, ensuring the course remains in top condition year-round. By focusing on non-potable reuse, LWD effectively supports local landscaping needs while conserving potable water resources for essential uses. This approach underscores LWD's commitment to sustainability and efficient water management, ensuring that every drop is used wisely to benefit the community.

The Important Role of Wastewater Epidemiology in San Diego County

Wastewater epidemiology is a relatively new scientific approach to help us find disease outbreaks early on by detecting viruses in wastewater. We learned more about this new method during the COVID-19 pandemic, because it allowed our local health officials to use this tool to spot COVID-19 problem areas and take preventive measures to protect the public. In addition, this method is found to be non-invasive and affordable, providing more complete health information than other methods.



Beyond COVID-19, wastewater epidemiology is applied to track other public health concerns such as influenza, RSV, antibiotic resistance, and drug use. These initiatives enable a non-invasive, cost-effective means of assessing community health trends, often providing more comprehensive data than traditional methods. LWD's partner agency, the Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA), has been assisting with these efforts led by University of California, San Diego (UCSD). UCSD is testing the wastewater samples sent by EWA and other agencies to protect community health.

As the field advances, the future of wastewater epidemiology in San Diego County looks promising. Better tools and more investment will make monitoring more accurate, helping to build a stronger health system and better health for everyone.

What Not to Flush : E-Cigs and Cigarettes



Help protect our community's water and wastewater systems! Remember, certain items should never be flushed down the toilet. **Cigarettes and e-cigarettes top the list.** These items can clog pipes, damage sewage treatment equipment, and pollute waterways. Instead, dispose of them in the trash. By keeping these and other non-flushable items out of our toilets, you can help maintain our wastewater system's efficiency and environmental health. Let's work together to keep our water clean and safe!

For a more comprehensive list of items to avoid flushing, visit this page first: <https://bit.ly/What2Flush>

Fiscal year end stats for 2024



76 miles of pipeline video inspected



181 miles of pipeline cleaned



64 million gallons of recycled water produced

Replacing Critical Infrastructure Before It Fails

San Marcos Creek Crossing Diversion Project

The District recently awarded the construction contract for the San Marcos Creek Crossing Diversion project. This critical project involves rerouting the wastewater flow from 400 residences, currently serviced by a compromised pipeline in a creek crossing near the eastern edge of the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa's Legends golf course.

The wastewater will be redirected to a reinforced sewer pipeline located further east.

This initiative is needed to ensure the San Marcos Creek is protected from a sewer spill. By addressing this problem before a failure, the District safeguards the environment and our community's health. Construction is set to begin in the fall of 2024, and we are targeting to complete the project before the onset of the next rainy season.

Diana Pump Station Upgrade Project

The District is currently in the design phase of the Diana Pump Station Upgrade project. The Diana Pump Station services the residents of the Leucadia community.

The project includes installing a new emergency power generator, and pump controls, and relocating the pump station's electrical equipment to a newly acquired easement on Diana Street. The new equipment will further bolster the District's ability to respond to emergencies and prevent sewer spills. Project construction is anticipated to start in 2026.

!?! Did you know?

The world's first wastewater treatment plant was built in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1890, revolutionizing urban sanitation and public health.



Application Due Nov. 15 for the 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 15 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 and application can be found here: <https://bit.ly/lwdteachergrant>

See an overview of one of last year's winner, Capri Elementary: <https://bit.ly/LWDCapri2024>



Protect Our Pipes: Keep Tree Roots Out



Tree roots can wreak havoc on sewer pipes, causing blockages and damage that lead to costly repairs. Recently, the LWD team discovered a tree root growing inside a sewer main line, highlighting the importance of keeping roots out of both sewer mains and homeowner laterals.

Our Field Service Technicians diligently check and clean manholes and lines to prevent such issues. Homeowners can help by planting trees away from sewer lines and inspecting their laterals every other year. Together, we can protect our sewer system and ensure smooth, uninterrupted service for all.

For assistance in repairing a lateral, read up on LWD's Lateral Grant Program at this website: <https://bit.ly/latgrant>

Maintaining Easements with Field Services Technicians

Check out our video showcasing our dedicated Field Services Technicians (FSTs) in action as they clean up an easement in a local canyon. In this video you'll learn how our FSTs maintain easements by clearing debris periodically. This is important, so they can easily access manholes for maintenance and emergencies. It's a true testament to the power of teamwork and environmental stewardship!

Watch video here: <https://bit.ly/MaintainingEasements>



How Restaurants Can Help Prevent Sewer Spills by Properly Disposing of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)

Have you ever wondered how restaurants collect and dispose of their FOG? Restaurants play an important role in preventing FOG-related issues in the sewer system by installing and using specialized equipment called a grease interceptor or grease trap. Most restaurants must have a grease interceptor or a grease trap to capture FOG before the water goes into the sewer system. It is important that restaurants regularly clean and maintain their grease systems and dispose of the collected FOG. In many cases, restaurants hire a waste disposal company or grease recycling company to properly manage their FOG.

In this brief video, our Field Services Technicians demonstrate how they maintain, clean, and inspect sewer pipes. You'll see the problematic items they find, including FOG, which can clog drains and sewer lateral pipes, potentially leading to sewer backups or spills that harm the environment and our local beaches and lagoons. Together, we can make a difference in protecting our sewer infrastructure and the environment.

Watch video here: <https://bit.ly/FOGvideo>

Welcome to our three new employees!

New team members join our efforts to be a recognized leader in wastewater services, waterrecycling, and environmental protection.



Ashley Bobb, Accounting Technician

Ashley joined LWD in January 2024 and before joining us she spent 11 years at SDSU in various positions, including as a Budget Analyst. In addition to her experience in higher education, she has also spent 24 years in the Hospitality Industry. Ashley is an avid runner and competes in many local races, pursuing her personal record. She looks forward to learning from the District's leadership and contributing to its environmental protection efforts.



Angel Hinojosa, Field Services Technician In-Training

Before joining in November 2023, Angel worked at a manufacturing warehouse for eight years. He was born in Oceanside and raised in Vista. He enjoys cinema, barbecuing and enjoying quality time with family and friends. He is eager to learn more about the wastewater industry and contribute to the team.

Angel recently received his Grade 1 Collection System Maintenance certification from the California Water Environment Association and his Water Treatment Operator Grade 1 certification from the State Water Resources Control Board!



Matthew Anderson, Field Services Technician In-Training

Born and raised in Encinitas, California, Matthew has been a long-time customer of the District and is proud to join the team. His family is the most important part of his life and he loves spending quality time with them. He enjoys camping and riding dirt bikes in the desert. He is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the LWD team and to learn more about how to protect our local environment.

Matthew recently received a dual Associate's Degree in Water and Wastewater Technology Education from Palomar College. He also received his Grade 1 Collection System Maintenance certification from the California Water Environment Association!

Standout Achievements: Celebrating Our Team



Rick Easton, Field Services Technician for receiving his Grade 1 Mechanical Technologist certification from the California Water Environment Association!



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 14th year in a row!



Five Years without Lost Time Work-Related Injuries

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



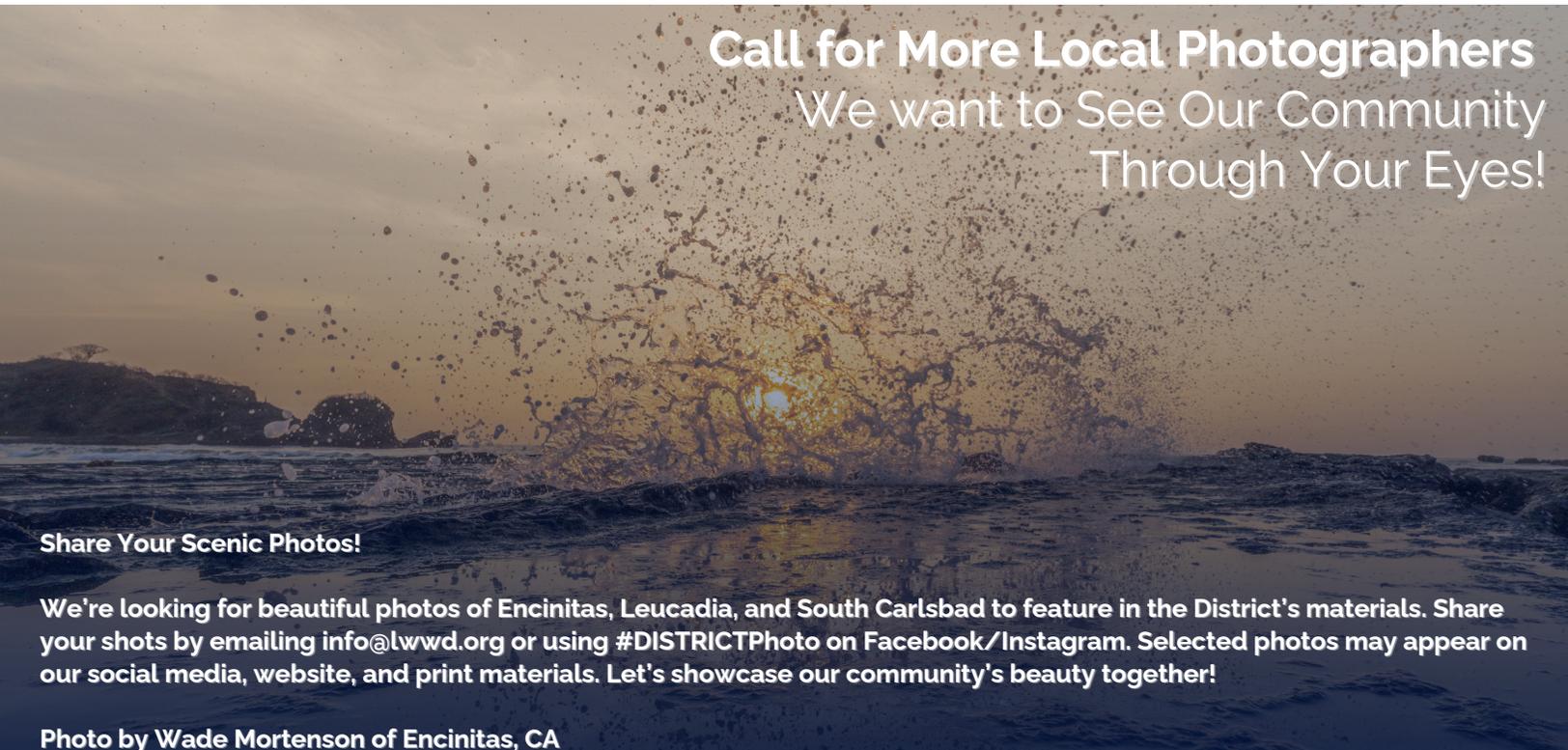
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Downstream 2024 Fall Newsletter

Get the latest updates from the Leucadia Wastewater District!

Inside this newsletter, read about Water Career Day 2024, LWD's continued focus on non-potable reuse, Diana Pump Station upgrade project, and other helpful resources for community members.

Subscribe to our email newsletter for biannual updates from the District at: <https://conta.cc/2T4pnUw>



Call for More Local Photographers
We want to See Our Community
Through Your Eyes!

Share Your Scenic Photos!

We're looking for beautiful photos of Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad to feature in the District's materials. Share your shots by emailing info@lwwd.org or using #DISTRICTPhoto on Facebook/Instagram. Selected photos may appear on our social media, website, and print materials. Let's showcase our community's beauty together!

Photo by Wade Mortenson of Encinitas, CA



Leucadia Wastewater District Newsletter

Leaders in environmental protection, keeping our lagoons, beaches and oceans clean and safe.



www.lwwd.org



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