

**Downstream**

2025 Spring Newsletter



# Bringing Wastewater Education to Life

## Field Service Technicians Connect with Local Schools

At Leucadia Wastewater District, we believe that hands-on learning is one of the best ways to engage the next generation. That's why, for the second year in a row, our Field Service Technician team has been visiting local schools to provide interactive, bilingual demonstrations—bringing real-world wastewater science straight to the classroom.

During the 2024/2025 school year, our team visited multiple schools, providing over 200 students with a firsthand look at the essential role wastewater services play in protecting public health and the environment with live demonstrations in both English and Spanish.

From learning how wastewater flows through underground pipelines to understanding the impact of non-flushable items on the system,

Students experienced wastewater management in a way that was both fun and educational.

Schools have embraced this initiative, integrating our demonstrations into annual events like Water Day at Capri Elementary and specialized science programming at other campuses.

This year, the program expanded further, with teachers requesting demonstrations for entire grade levels after seeing the excitement and engagement of the students during our previous visits.

By bringing wastewater education directly to the classroom, our team ensures that students not only learn about water conservation but also understand how their daily actions can protect our local water resources.

Check out this video, showing a demonstration to a local school:



If you're an educator interested in participating in LWD's Teacher Grant Program or scheduling a demonstration for your school, visit our website to learn more.

# Investing in a Sustainable Future While Keeping Rates Affordable

We work hard to keep your sewer rates reasonable while making sure our community has a reliable and environmentally friendly wastewater system. Our team maintains over 200 miles of sewer pipes and 10 pump stations, regularly inspecting, cleaning, and upgrading infrastructure to prevent costly problems. Thanks to these efforts, the Leucadia Wastewater District has gone over **five years without a single sewer spill** - an achievement that protects our beaches, lagoons, and local environment.

To keep everything running smoothly, we invest in major infrastructure projects, such as pipeline repairs and pump station upgrades, while also using new technology to extend the life of our sewer system. For example, instead of completely replacing old pipes, we often use a cost-effective method called cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, which strengthens pipes from the inside without the need for disruptive digging. By making smart upgrades now, we avoid costly emergency repairs later and ensure our wastewater system remains strong for years to come.

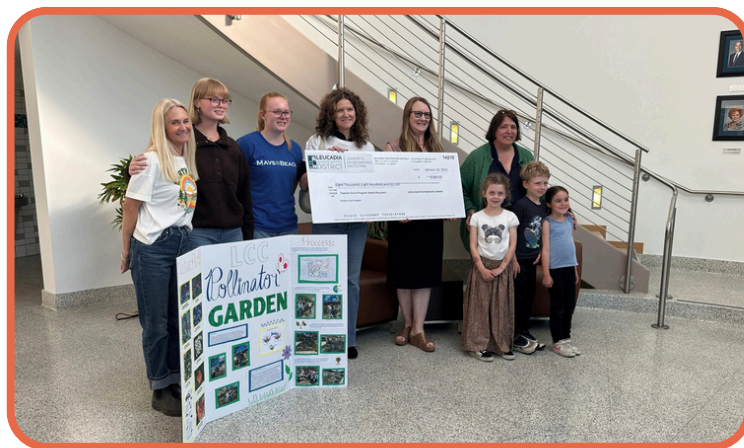
LWD also takes a responsible approach to financial planning, using a 20-year financial plan to anticipate costs and avoid sudden rate hikes. This long-term strategy helps us balance affordability with necessary improvements, so residents can count on reliable service without unexpected increases. With **careful budgeting, proactive maintenance, and a focus on sustainability**, we continue to provide high-quality wastewater services while keeping rates among the lowest in San Diego County.

## Congratulations to Our Teacher Grant Winners!

After reviewing many outstanding applications this past fall, we are excited to announce the 2024/2025 grant recipients and their inspiring projects:

- **Katie Oberman** from **El Camino Creek Elementary** (5th) for her "Garden Science and STEM Class" project
- **June Honsberger** from **La Costa Canyon High School** for her "Pollinator Plant Garden" project
- **Nancy Jois** from **Capri Elementary** (kindergarten) for the "We Can Help Ocean Animals" project
- **Carrie Hendon** from **Encinitas Union School District Farm Lab** for the "Water Wise: Experimenting with Groundwater Simulator" project
- **Jessica Caldararo** from **La Costa Heights Elementary** (kindergarten) for the "Kinder-Garden for a Better Earth" project
- **Jacquelyn Street** from **La Costa Heights Elementary** (2<sup>nd</sup>) for the "Young Water Protectors - Ocean Water Pollution Prevention" project

**These projects will reach over 1,500 students**, engaging them in water conservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainability efforts.



## Did you know?



**A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day!** A silent

leak might be driving up your water bill.

Try adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank - if the color seeps into the bowl without flushing, it's time for a fix!



# Construction In Progress & Development Updates

## San Marcos Creek Crossing Diversion Project Successfully Completed!



We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the San Marcos Creek Crossing Diversion Project, an essential infrastructure improvement designed to protect local waterways and ensure long-term wastewater system reliability.

This critical project rerouted wastewater flow from approximately 400 residences that were connected to a compromised pipeline crossing the San Marcos Creek. By redirecting flows to a reinforced sewer pipeline further east, we eliminated the risk of a sewer spill into the creek, safeguarding both the environment and public health.

## Batiquitos Pump Station Emergency Basin Project Successfully Completed!

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the Batiquitos Pump Station Emergency Basin Project. The emergency basin is a critical piece of infrastructure that serves as temporary wastewater storage for excess flows during high wet weather flows or emergency situations. The emergency basin work included concrete restoration on the walls and ceiling and then lining the concrete with an epoxy.

Upgrading this component of the district's largest pump station, which is next to the Batiquitos lagoon and pumps about 5 million gallons of wastewater per day, helps make sure we are ready during the largest storm events.



## Rancho Verde Pump Station Rehabilitation Project Begins in Spring 2025



We are set to begin construction on the Rancho Verde Pump Station, near La Costa Canyon High School.

Built 29 years ago, the pump station will be retrofitted with new electrical and mechanical components, and other general site improvements. These upgrades will help prevent system failures and ensure continued top-quality service for the community.

Residents may notice increased activity in the area for about 4 months during construction, and rest assured that we are working hard to minimize disruptions. This project is part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a resilient and efficient wastewater system. For updates, visit our website or follow us on social media.

## Diana Pump Station Upgrade: Enhancing Reliability for Leucadia Residents

This project will enhance the reliability and emergency response capabilities of the pump station which serves the Leucadia community, along Highway 101. The upcoming upgrade includes adding an onsite emergency generator to ensure continued operation during power outages and relocating electrical equipment to a newly acquired easement on Diana Street. Construction is expected to begin in 2026. Stay tuned for updates as this project moves forward!





# Remembering our Leaders

## Leucadia Wastewater District Remembers Longest Serving Board Member Judy Hanson

With great sadness, we share the passing of longtime Board member and community volunteer Judy Hanson. As a dedicated public servant, Judy served on the Leucadia Wastewater District Board of Directors for an extraordinary **40 years**, from 1983 until September 6, 2023. She played a vital role on numerous committees and held multiple terms as Board President and Vice President.



Beyond the District, Judy was an advocate for regional collaboration, serving on the California Sanitation Risk Management Authority and Encina Wastewater Authority Boards. Her commitment to public service extended to volunteering at Scripps Memorial Hospital in Encinitas and serving as Treasurer of the Friends of the Encinitas Library.

Judy's career began as one of LWD's earliest employees, later becoming Finance Supervisor at the San Dieguito Water District/City of Encinitas. She was widely recognized for her contributions, earning accolades such as the Al Wrigley Memorial Award and the Golden Shovel Award from the California Water Environment Association.

## Honoring Director Donald F. Omsted for His Years of Service

The Leucadia Wastewater District extends its deepest appreciation to Director Donald F. Omsted, who has faithfully served the District and our community for a total of 22 years.

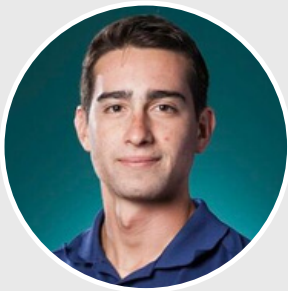


Director Omsted first joined our Board of Directors in 1982, serving a four-year term, and rejoined in 2006. Throughout his tenure he supported key infrastructure improvements, including modernizing the District's headquarters, upgrading our two largest pump stations, and enhancing major pipelines and forcemains. His efforts have helped us maintain our reputation as a leader in environmental protection and operational excellence.

Director Omsted's legacy at the District is marked not only by his commitment to infrastructure and environmental stewardship, but also by his unwavering focus on fiscal responsibility. Under his leadership, the District has consistently maintained one of the **lowest wastewater service rates in San Diego County** while continuing to provide high-quality service to its customers.

We sincerely thank Director Omsted for his dedication, leadership, and years of service to the District and our community. His impact will be felt for generations to come, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

# Standout Achievements: Staff and District Awards



**Field Services Technician  
Ryan Rodriguez**  
*10 Years of Service Award*

## No Vehicle Accidents in 3 Years

Our team has maintained a spotless safety record, going three years without a vehicle accident. The Field Services team of 13 professionals operating 8 vehicles and logging over 10,000 hours on the road each year.

This achievement is a testament to their skill, vigilance, and commitment to safety.



Not only does this milestone reflect our dedication to protecting staff and the community, but it also helps keep operational costs and rates low for our customers.

## No Spills for 5 Years

We are proud to announce a major operational milestone—**five consecutive years without a single sewer spill**. This achievement underscores our unwavering commitment to system reliability, proactive maintenance, and environmental protection.

LWD's dedicated **Field Services team** works tirelessly to keep our system running smoothly, inspecting and maintaining **over 200 miles of pipeline** to prevent overflows and disruptions. Through rigorous preventative maintenance, state-of-the-art monitoring, and a proactive approach to infrastructure management, we continue to set a high standard for wastewater service in our community.

Keeping our system spill-free not only protects local waterways and public health but also helps keep operational costs and customer rates low. **We thank our hardworking team for their vigilance and dedication to this outstanding accomplishment!**



Leucadia Wastewater District is honored to announce that we have received two prestigious awards from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA).

## Collection System of the Year - 1st Place Local & State Award:

This award recognizes LWD's excellence in managing and maintaining our wastewater collection system, ensuring reliable and efficient service to our community.

## Community Engagement and Outreach Project of the Year - 1st Place Local & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place State Award:

This accolade celebrates our innovative efforts in connecting with the community, particularly through our bilingual educational programs and in-person demonstrations led by our Field Service Technicians.

These achievements reflect our unwavering commitment to operational excellence and proactive community involvement. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated staff and the supportive community we serve.





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## Downstream 2025 Spring Newsletter

Get the latest updates from the Leucadia Wastewater District!

Inside this newsletter, read about bringing wastewater education to life, teacher grant winners, capital improvement projects, Field Services Maintenance/Development updates, and other helpful resources for community members. Subscribe to our email newsletter for biannual updates from the District at:



Photo Submitted by Wade Mortenson



We're inviting local photographers to share their best scenic shots of Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad for a chance to be featured in our newsletter and on social media. Submit your photos by emailing [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) or posting them on Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #DISTRICTPhoto. Selected images may appear on our newsletter cover or social channels, with full credit to the photographer.



### Leucadia Wastewater District Newsletter

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



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