



FY 2026 FACT SHEET

- District formed in 1959, independent special district.
- Special District formed under “County Water District” statute of state law.
- LWD is one of six member agencies of the Encina Wastewater Authority (a joint powers authority) that operates a regional wastewater treatment and disposal facility in Carlsbad. (Other members are Carlsbad, Vista, Encinitas, Vallecitos Water District and Buena Sanitation District).
- LWD collects, treats, and disposes of approximately 3.8 million gallons of wastewater daily.
- Service area includes Leucadia and the Village Park area of Encinitas, and La Costa in Carlsbad.
- LWD serves approximately 61,000 residents in a 16 square mile service area.
- Approximately 20,753 customer accounts, over 28,990 equivalent dwelling units (EDU – same as a single-family home); 31,974 EDU’s estimated at build out; currently over 90% build-out.
- Approximately 200 miles of gravity pipeline, 11 pump stations (*10 collection system pump stations and 1 recycled water pump station*), 16 miles of force mains and 5,000 manholes.
- Majority of customers are residential; some customers are businesses such as stores and restaurants.
- Annual operating budget is \$10.4 million (includes water recycling).
- LWD’s sewer service charge is \$48.25 per month for a single-family home (\$579.00/year). LWD has one of the lowest sewer service rates in San Diego County.
- LWD capacity fee - \$6,240 (revised June 12, 2024 following the Financial Plan Update).
- Fiscal year is July 1 – June 30.
- Fiscal year 2026 capital budget is \$8.8 million; capital acquisitions total \$590K – tied to the District’s Asset Management Master Plan & LWD Financial Plan for facility replacement and new facilities.
- Protection of public health, the Batiquitos Lagoon, beaches and coastal waters are highest priorities of District.
- LWD’s record of environmental protection is exceptional (lack of major sewer spills and response to minor spills results in an outstanding track record of environmental protection).
- District has installed state of the art monitoring systems and back up facilities.
- Current staff of 20 employees.
- District is not a land use agency – makes no decisions about planning or growth in community – cities have this authority. LWD simply provides wastewater service.
- LWD owns and operates the Gafner Water Reclamation Plant – can produce up to 1.0 million gallons per day of high-quality recycled water for irrigation purposes – serves Omni La Costa’s Legends golf course.
- District has a long-range Strategic Plan, Asset Management Plan and Financial Plan that guide decisions and operations.