

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

1. **Call to Order**
Teleconference with Vice President Brown at the following location:
Moulton Nigel Water District
26161 Gordon Road
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Fall 2025 Newsletter Draft Text Review.** (Pages 2-8)
5. **Information Items**
None.
6. **Directors' Comments**
7. **General Manager's Comments**
8. **Adjournment**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 4, 2025
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager
SUBJECT: Fall 2025 Newsletter Draft Text Review



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Fall 2025 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

On August 5th, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the fall 2025 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 2025 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

LWD's Fall 2025 Newsletter Articles

Who We Are: Your Local Wastewater Professionals

At Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD), we are more than just your local sewer service provider — we are your neighbors, **environmental stewards**, and dedicated public servants. Our mission is simple yet vital: to collect, transport, recycle, and treat wastewater in a safe, reliable, efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner, while providing excellent service to our customers.

We maintain over 200 miles of sewer pipelines and 10 pump stations across our service area, working around the clock to keep wastewater flowing and protect our beaches, lagoons, and public health. Our proactive approach means we replace or rehabilitate pipes and pump stations before they fail, avoiding costly emergencies. This commitment to preventive maintenance has helped us achieve an extraordinary milestone — **over five years without a single sewer spill**, one of our proudest accomplishments.

We believe in connecting with our community by offering exceptional resources. Through our **Lateral Grant Program**, we help property owners by offsetting their repair costs for their private sewer laterals, which helps reduce the risk of sewer blockages and spills. Our **Teacher Grant Program** funds local educators' hands-on water and environmental projects, while our bilingual school demonstrations bring wastewater science to life for hundreds of students each year.

Fiscal responsibility is central to our operations. Using a long-term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan, we manage the financial stability of the District and ensure infrastructure investments are timed strategically. As a result, we have upheld one of the **lowest sewer rates in San Diego County**.

Our award-winning staff has earned multiple state honors for safety, operations, and public outreach. We've gone **over five years without a work-related injury**. From cleaning underground pipelines to providing classroom demonstrations, we combine technical expertise with environmental commitment to deliver safe, cost-effective, and sustainable service every day.

To learn more about the work we do and our history, visit www.lwwd.org or follow us on social media @LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict.

How Your Wastewater District is Governed

LWD is a local, independent public agency that provides two essential services: wastewater collection and water recycling. This type of government entity is also called a "Special District", and as a special district LWD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, each elected by the community to serve a four-year term. Our Board is responsible for setting policy, adopting budgets, and guiding the long-term vision of the District.

Board members are elected “by division,” meaning our service area is split into five geographic districts, each represented by one Director. Elections are held in even-numbered years, with terms staggered so that either two or three seats are up for election every two years.

Serving as a Director offers a unique opportunity to represent your neighbors, guide important infrastructure investments, and help protect our beaches, lagoons, and the environment for generations to come. Board meetings are open to the public and held monthly at the District’s headquarters — we welcome all community members to attend and learn more about local governance in action.

For Board meeting schedules, division maps, or details about upcoming elections, visit www.lwwd.org or contact the San Diego County Registrar of Voters at www.sdvote.com.

Sharing our History in the *Stories of San Dieguito*

This fall, the District will be featured in a new publication celebrating the people, places, and history of our region. *Stories of San Dieguito*, a collaborative project by the San Dieguito Heritage Ranch Museum and HPN Books/Ledge Media, was released in October 2025.

Our two-page feature in the book tells the remarkable story of how our community came together in 1959 to form its own wastewater district — led in part by two trailblazing women, Pearl Land and Forest Gafner, in order to solve the serious problems caused by failing septic tanks. From the construction of our first treatment plant in 1962, to joining the Encina Wastewater Authority in the 1970s, to today’s award-winning operations and environmental programs, the article showcases the milestones, innovation, and commitment that define LWD’s service to the community.

Participating in this project allows us to share not just our operational history, but our long-standing role as environmental stewards, innovators in water recycling, and partners in public education. The *Stories of San Dieguito* book highlights many local organizations, businesses, and individuals, making it a unique tribute to our shared heritage.

We invite you to learn more about our history and services anytime at www.lwwd.org and you may visit the San Dieguito Heritage Ranch Museum to get a copy of the book.

Rancho Verde Pump Station Rehabilitation Project Successfully Completed!

We’re pleased to announce the Rancho Verde Pump Station Rehabilitation Project was successfully completed in August 2025. This project was a critical infrastructure improvement designed to ensure continued reliable wastewater service for the community.

Originally constructed nearly three decades ago, the pump station located near La Costa Canyon High School received electrical and mechanical upgrades along with general site improvements to help prevent failures and maintain long-term reliability. The four-month construction effort was **completed on schedule**, with **minimal disruption to nearby residents and schools**.

Sewer Lateral Grant Program for Homeowners

Did you know that the District offers to reimburse homeowners 50% of your sewer lateral repair costs, up to a maximum of \$3,000? The sewer or private lateral is the pipeline that connects your home to the sewer main in the street and it is owned by the homeowner. This program is geared to help with necessary sewer lateral repairs due to root intrusion, cracks, or blockages. The installation of lateral liners and/or replacing existing sewer pipe qualify as sewer repairs that can be reimbursed. The inspection and cleaning of a private lateral does not qualify for the program. More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/LatGrant>.

Diana Pump Station Upgrade Project Moves Forward

We are excited to share that the Diana Pump Station Upgrade Project has officially moved into the construction phase. This project is a key part of our long-term infrastructure plan to enhance the reliability and emergency response capabilities of our pump stations.

Located near Highway 101 and serving the heart of the Leucadia community, the Diana Pump Station will be upgraded with a new onsite emergency generator, have much of its electrical equipment relocated and receive critical upgrades.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2026. Stay tuned for construction updates.

2025 Fiscal Year End Stats

- 76 miles of pipeline video inspected
- 183 miles of pipeline cleaned
- 87 million gallons of recycled water produced

Did you know? Fact

Option 1) Wipes don't just clog pipes - they also damage the powerful pumps that keep wastewater moving. Each time a pump is jammed by wipes, our crews must shut it down, remove the tangled debris, and repair any damage. A single incident can cost thousands of dollars in labor, equipment wear, and replacement parts. Across the U.S., wipes cost wastewater utilities hundreds of millions of dollars annually in extra maintenance.

By tossing wipes in the trash instead of the toilet, you help protect our pumps, prevent costly repairs, and keep sewer rates low.

Remember: "Wipes Clog Pipes!"

Option 2) 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.

Water Career Day 2025

The 2025 Water Career Day, held on [October 16th] at the [San Elijo Water Campus], welcomed [more than 100] enthusiastic high school students, college students, and transitioning veterans for an immersive, hands-on introduction to careers in the water and wastewater industry. Hosted by Leucadia Wastewater District, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, and Olivenhain Municipal Water District, alongside key regional collaborators, the event offered a powerful blend of technical exploration, professional guidance, and real-world inspiration.

The event's welcoming, hands-on format gave attendees a meaningful glimpse into the variety of roles that support public health and environmental protection. For students interested in science, engineering, or public service, Water Career Day helped connect the dots between classroom learning and real-world application.

Water Career Day continues to grow as a standout opportunity to inspire and recruit the next generation of water professionals in North County and beyond.

Teacher Grant Applications Open

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 14** 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: bit.ly/lwdteachergrant

See an overview of one of last year's winner: <https://www.lwwd.org/community-info/community-outreach/teacher-grant-program>

What Not To Flush – Fats, Oil, Grease (FOG)

Holiday cooking often involves fats, oils, and grease or "FOG". Pouring these down the drain can lead to serious plumbing problems. When FOG cools, it hardens inside pipes, causing blockages in household drains and the public sewer system. These clogs can result in backups, costly repairs, or even sewage spills that impact the environment and local waterways.

Instead of rinsing greasy pans in the sink, scrape leftover FOG into a heat-safe container, let it solidify, and dispose of it in the trash. Wipe down greasy dishes with a paper towel before washing. These simple steps can help keep your plumbing clear and our sewer infrastructure working smoothly.

In this brief video, our Field Services Technicians demonstrate what happens when FOG builds up in sewer lines and show other common items that don't belong in the pipes.

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

Together, we can protect our pipes, beaches, and lagoons - one meal at a time.

Community Photos Showcase

We're proud to feature three stunning photographs from YOU, local residents, in this year's Community Photos Showcase. These images capture the natural beauty of Encinitas, Leucadia, and South Carlsbad reminding us of the unique landscapes we're fortunate to protect and serve. Thank you to the talented photographers who shared their perspectives with us!

Want to see your photo featured? Share your scenic shots with us by emailing info@lwwd.org. Selected images may appear in future newsletters, on our website, or across District materials, with full credit to you.

Let's keep celebrating the natural beauty of our region, one photo at a time.

Welcome Our New Employees!

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

Gonzalo Ortiz III, a Field Service Technician In-Training

Gonzalo was born and raised in Oceanside, California. He is deeply passionate about family and the great outdoors, enjoying activities such as local fishing and off-roading. Gonzalo is a proud supporter of the San Francisco 49ers and the San Diego Padres. As a seafood lover, he also enjoys creating delicious seafood dishes. As a dedicated member of the Leucadia Wastewater District, Gonzalo is grateful for the opportunity to contribute and is eager to learn and grow within the organization.

Gonzalo recently received his Water Treatment Grade 1 certification from the State Water Resources Control Board!

Juan Carlos Ortega, a Field Service Technician In-Training

Juan Carlos grew up in Vista, California. When he's not on the job, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, biking, and rooting for the San Diego Padres. Juan Carlos holds a Class A Commercial Driver's License and a Grade 1 Collection System Maintenance certification from the California Water Environment Association, and he's proud to be part of a team that's working to protect the environment and make a real difference in the community.

Standout Achievements: Celebrating Our Team

Jeffery Pivaral, Field Services Technician II received his Grade 2 Collections System certification from the California Water Environment Association!

Field Services Superintendent **Marvin Gonzalez – 20 Years of Services Award**

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 15th year in a row!

Six Years without Lost Time Work-Related Injuries

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

Outreach and Education State Award

We are honored to announce that we received the **Recycled Water Outreach/Education Program of the Year Award** from the **California WaterReuse Association**. This award recognizes the success of a joint educational public outreach event, Water Career Day, between three public agencies: Leucadia Wastewater District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District and San Elijo Joint Powers Authority!