

Rolando Saldana, President
Matthew Brown, Vice President
Chris Roesink, Director
Elaine Sullivan, Director
Robert Pacilio, Director
Paul J. Bushee, General Manager



Who We Are: Your Local Wastewater Professionals

Your Neighbors, Environmental Stewards, & Dedicated Public Servants

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, including the statewide **2024 Collections System of the Year** award. We've gone six 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.

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 and within budget.

2025 Fiscal Year End Stats

- 76 miles of pipeline video inspected
- 183 miles of pipeline cleaned
- 87,000,000 gallons of recycled water produced

Diana Pump Station Upgrade - Scheduled to Begin in 2026

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 on Diana Street 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.

Sewer Lateral Grant Program

Are you aware 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.

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 <https://bit.ly/LatGrant>.



Leucadia's Ian Riffel with Navy Veteran Tom Keener



Community Photos Showcase

We're proud to feature these 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.



Photo by Steve Skinner



Photo by Bill Holsten



Photo by Mike Kalichman



Photo by Jimmy Rigg

Sharing our History in the Stories of San Dieguito



This fall, the District will be featured in a new book 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. 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.

Water Career Day 2025



Leucadia's Johnny Montoya and Gonzalo Ortiz demonstrating the vacor truck to students during the Water Career Day event

The 2025 Water Career Day, held on October 22nd at the San Elijo Water Campus, welcomed 75 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:



See an overview of one of last year's winners:



Did You Know?

- "Flushable" wipes don't disintegrate like toilet paper. They clog pipes and damage wastewater pumps.
- Each clog can cost thousands in repairs, adding up to hundreds of millions nationwide every year.
- Toss wipes in the trash, not the toilet. It keeps pipes clear and sewer rates low.

Remember: All Wipes Clog Pipes!

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

- FOG hardens in pipes, causing blockages and costly sewer backups.
- These clogs can lead to repairs, spills, and polluted waterways.
- Don't pour grease down the drain: scrape it into a container, let it solidify, and throw it in the trash.

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

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

Welcome Our New Employee!

A new team member joins our efforts to be a recognized leader in wastewater services, water recycling, and environmental protection.



Gonzalo Ortiz III, Field Service Technician I

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 and was recently promoted!



Standout Achievements: Celebrating Our Team



Marvin Gonzalez, Field Services Superintendent - 20 Years of Services Award



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.



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



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.



1960 La Costa Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92009
(760) 753-0155

Downstream 2025 Fall 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 Mike Kalichman

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 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.

Visit our website or social media pages for more information



www.lwwd.org



[@leucadiawastewater](https://www.facebook.com/leucadiawastewater)



[@LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict](https://www.instagram.com/LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict)



[@leucadiawastewaterdistrict6654](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCleucadiawastewaterdistrict6654)

Page 6