


AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

December 2, 2025 – 9:30 a.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. **Review of the Teacher Grant Applications** (Pages 2-11)
5. **2025 Water Career Day Overview** (Pages 12-14)
6. **Information Items**
None.
7. **Directors' Comments**
8. **General Manager's Comments**
9. **Adjournment**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 26, 2025
 TO: Community Affairs Committee
 FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager 
 SUBJECT: Review of Teacher Grant Applications

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee recommend that the Board of Directors:

1. Award three Teacher Grants totaling \$5,500; or
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND:**Tactical Goal: Services/Teacher Grant Program Awards**

LWD's Teacher Grant Program, established in 2008, aims to support water or wastewater educational initiatives within the District. Over the years, the program has progressed, including adjustments to the timeline and increasing the grant amount teachers can receive.

Our most recent Teacher Grant Program update occurred in August 2025. The Board approved a formal Teacher Grant policy that updated its procedures, established eligibility criteria, included optional evaluation criteria, and increased the program's annual budget to \$8,000. The maximum grant per teacher still remains \$2,000.

DISCUSSION:

In early September 2025, staff distributed information about the revised Teacher Grant program to all schools within the District's service area, including nine elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) reached out to schools and teachers via email and social media, to remind schools and teachers of the November 14, 2025 submission deadline. Additionally, information about the grants was made available on the LWD website, in the fall newsletter, and RTP posted reminders on LWD's social media account.

As a result, three applications were received by the deadline and are attached for your review.

No.	Applicants	School	Amount Requested	No. of Students Impacted	Project
1	Nancy Jois	Capri Elementary	\$1,500	75	No Wipes Down the Pipes
2	Barbara Larson	Park Dale Lane Elementary	\$2,000	434	Rain Harvesters Improvements
3	June Honsberger	La Costa Canyon HS	\$2,000	100	Outdoor Laboratory
TOTAL:			\$5,500	609	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff reviewed the applications and each meet the program's required criteria to qualify for a grant. The total cost for the three grant requests is under the fiscal year 2026 budget of \$8,000. Staff is recommending grants be awarded to all three applicants in the amounts requested. The applications are attached for your review.

Staff recommends that the CAC review the applications and forward all applications to the Board of Directors for approval at the December 10, 2025 meeting.

th:PJB

Attachments


LEUCADIA
 WASTEWATER
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 LEADERS IN
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 PROTECTION

Grant Application Form

During the 2025-2026 school year Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD) will award grants to teachers in local elementary, middle, and high schools in LWD's service area or from an educational partner organization that supports the schools located in the District's service area.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Use this cover sheet as page one of your application.
- Include identifying information only on this cover sheet.
- In your project narrative, **do not** include your name school name, or district name to ensure impartiality during the evaluation process.

Completed applications must be emailed to info@lwwd.org or received by **Friday, November 14, 2025**. The project narrative should reflect the eligibility criteria outlined in sections 3(b) and 5 of the Teacher Grant Program. For questions, please contact Leucadia Wastewater District at **(760) 753-0155**.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Nancy Jois (760) 310-0014
 Teacher's name Phone

Kindergarten
 Grade Subject

Capri Encinitas
 School name District

941 Capri Road Leucadia CA 92024
 School address, including street, city and zip

Chris Juarez 760-944-4360
 Principal's name School phone number

Capri PTA
 Name of parent organization (i.e. PTA or school foundation)

No Wipes Down the Pipes 1500.00
 Project title Grant amount requested

Nancy P. Jois
 Teacher's signature

Please tell us how you heard about this

☐ Poster/Flyer ☐ Web site ☐ Another Educator ☐ Newsletter ☒ Other

When you came to
a staff meeting to
present your grant

To Whom It May Concern:

I am applying for a grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 to teach 3 kindergarten classes about the water cycle & water resource management to meet the Next Generation Science Standards for kindergarten. With these funds, these 3 classes would participate in project learning about litter in storm drains, wipes in sewer drains, the water cycle, xeriscaping, & would create a public service announcement for their families & community about the importance of protecting the water system by keeping drains free of wipes & storm drains free of debris. This grant will provide funding for a hands-on water day for all kindergarteners LWD staff will be invited to our school to present to students in English and Spanish. **During this water day students will:**

- Investigate the steps of the water cycle. They will describe each step of the water cycle & the state of matter that the water is in during each step. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the water cycle by designing & building their own water cycle model. They will take these models home to explain the water cycle to their families.
- Add native & drought resistant plants to a slope adjacent to a storm drain to prevent litter & soil from impacting the drain. Students have all taken a 6-week course with BCK programs on the importance of keeping debris out of storm drains. BCK programs will come back for water day to do another hands-on-lesson on water pollution for all students.
- Synthesize what they've learned by creating a 5-minute videotaped PSA to reinforce for themselves and to teach their families / the community to keep wipes out of household pipes / litter out of storm drains.

This project consists of 75 students & 6-8 staff members. We would use \$525 of the funds to make individual water cycle models (materials per model \$7.00 x 75 = \$525.) Before we begin filming teachers will secure releases from students so the LWD will be able to show this video on a public forum. Two parents from our school will help with the videotaping. They are donating their time. One parent works in LA in the film industry; the other is a producer for local television news programs.

As a result of this project students will be able to:

1. Create and explain a water cycle model
2. Explain the impact of litter & wipes on sewer & storm drains
3. Understand their knowledge can be used to teach others.
4. The resulting video will be shared with all students & student families in the school district during Earth Week (there are roughly 4,000 students in the district)
5. Students will present their video at an Eco-Literacy event which includes elected officials

Budget: \$1,500.00

\$525.00 for Supplies for 75 water cycle models

\$975.00 for purchasing drought tolerant / native plants

Thank you for your time and consideration.

ATTACHMENT A


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IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Barbara Larson of Bck Programs 858-449-2064
 Teacher's name Phone
 K-6 Environmental Ed
 Grade Subject
 Park Dale Lane EUSD
 School name District
 2050 Park Dale Lane, Encinitas, CA 92024
 School address, including street, city and zip
 Erin Terry 760-944-4344
 Principal's name School phone number
 Encinitas Educational Foundation
 Name of parent organization (i.e. PTA or school foundation)
 Park Dale Lane Rain Harvestors \$2000.00
 Project title Grant amount requested
 B. Larson
 Teacher's signature

Please tell us how you heard about this

☐ Poster/Flyer ☐ Web site ☐ Another Educator ☒ Newsletter ☐ Other _____

Kind Regards,
 Barbara Larson
 Partner
barbara@bckprograms.com
 (858)449-2064

This school year I am teaching a suite of Environmental Education units to all students. I partner with all of the teachers and do what I can to reach the PTA and parents to include sustainability and water conservation best practices throughout my teachings, projects and community events.

My goal for writing this grant is to engage students in a project based on their learnings from our Water Unit which includes: our water sources, the difference between storm drains and sewer pipes, where the water goes respectively and what happens to the water, including WIPES CLOG PIPES and fog bergs, stormwater run off pollutants, the threat of and consequences of drought and importance of water conservation and non potable reuse including rain water harvesting. We want to enhance the rain tanks we are using to water our garden, the compost and the native plant areas and create a visual reminder of water as our precious resource through murals on the tanks.

There are several rain tanks on campus that are used regularly to water the garden beds, compost piles and native garden spaces. Students have audited the rain tanks on campus and noted some things that need to be replaced, added or enhanced. Two of those tanks are in need of a refresh in how they collect and emit water to suit the user's needs. One tank needs a first flush diverter installed and one tank needs to be elevated to be able to gravity feed the water through a hose to reach the garden area. We would like to paint water themed murals on the tanks. I am asking for a grant to help facilitate the guidance needed to get the maximum use of the collected water. I would like to connect the students to an amazing water harvesting warrior, Brook Sarson, of "Catching H2O". This consultation and collaboration will inevitably further the understanding of the workings and maintenance of rainwater capture throughout the school district and beyond- AND help the school use its tanks to their fullest potential. The journey of discovery, guidance, maintenance and enhancement will include the engagement of our students that is sure to enhance their appreciation of water.

The tanks are located in the school's garden spaces and we have already begun with the above listed teachings, active use of the harvested rain water and emptying of the first flush diverters before rains and the student rank tank audit. If awarded the grant, the amendments and enhancement to the tanks will be completed by end of May and the mural on the tank depends on the artist but before August 2026. The artist will draw out the mural, the students will help paint it and the artist will come back in to enhance the student's work.

Budget:

First Flush Diverter (1) \$150

Leaf Catcher with First Flush Diverter \$200

Cinder Blocks \$150

Gravel \$100

Piping \$50

Hose attachments and hoses \$50

Catching H2O consultation and work \$1000

Mural supplies \$300

\$2000

Thank you for your consideration.


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IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Alyson Thile, Eden Borsack, and June Honsberger

760-436-6136

Teacher's name

Phone

9th-12th

Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science

Grade

Subject

La Costa Canyon High School

San Dieguito Union High School District

School name

District

1 Maverick Way, Carlsbad CA 92009

School address, including street, city and zip

Justin Conn

760-436-6136

Principal's name

School phone number

La Costa Canyon High School Foundation

Name of parent organization (i.e. PTA or school foundation)

Outdoor Laboratory

\$2000

Project title

Grant amount requested

Teacher's signature

Please tell us how you heard about this

☐ Poster/Flyer ☐ Web site ☐ Another Educator ☐ Newsletter ☐ Other _____

Outdoor Laboratory

Investigations of Pollinators and Plant Species

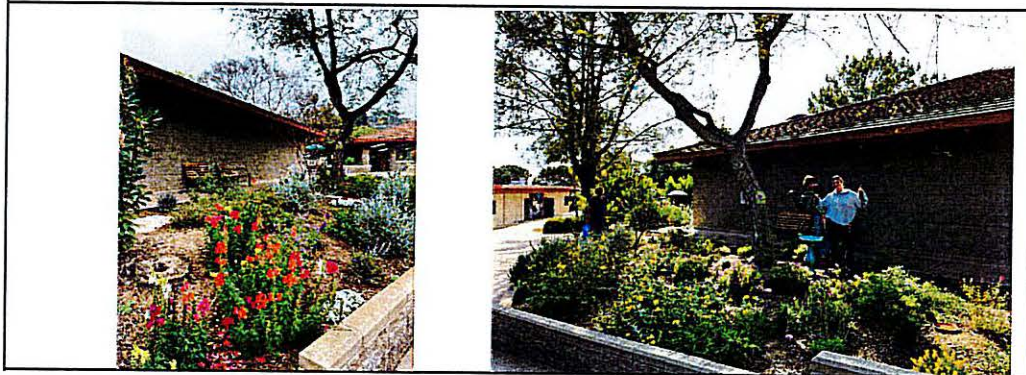
1. **Objective:** The focus of our project will be to provide an outdoor laboratory garden for high school International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems and Society (IBESS) students. The students will utilize the outdoor laboratory to develop research questions related to water resource management, water reuse, plant growth, and pollinator activity for their Internal Assessment (IA) project. Besides being an outdoor laboratory, the overarching mission of this project is to cultivate environmental stewardship and water resource management among all science students and increase their awareness of the importance of biodiversity in maintaining the health and well-being of their local community.
2. **Description of the Project:** This is an ongoing project that began over six years ago. With the motivation and efforts of a diverse group of students, the pollinator garden on our campus has evolved into a vibrant, diverse ecosystem designed to attract a wide range of pollinator species. Pollinators play a critical role in the reproduction and establishment of a healthy, sustainable, low-water garden ecosystem. According to the Pollinator Project at the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), San Diego County is home to over 700 species of native bees and a broad variety of other pollinator species. (Nabors et al., 2022). This project was designed to create an environment that attracts a variety of native pollinators, enhancing students' understanding of the importance of pollinators and water reuse, while providing an opportunity for them to conduct investigations outside the classroom. This project will be a collaborative effort involving 3 classroom teachers and approximately 100 high school science students (grades 9-12).
3. **Curriculum:** As part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, IBESS students are required to develop a scientific research question, design a sound experiment to investigate it, collect and analyze data, and present their findings in a formal written report for their Internal Assessment (IA) project. Students may work individually or in small groups, depending on the nature of their research question. This year, research will focus on topics that connect water resource management and water use to our pollinator garden and the environmental insights it provides. Students will share their findings with classmates and teachers, and submit their final research papers to the IB administration for evaluation. In addition, they will present their work to the wider school community during our annual Earth Day Festival in April. Their data will contribute to future garden projects and student-led investigations, supporting ongoing efforts to enhance and sustain our campus ecosystem.

Students collecting data in the garden.



In order to maintain the pollinator garden as a useful resource for these students, they, along with the Biodiversity Club on campus (63 club members) and the Campus Beautification team (varying numbers of students), will continue to monitor the health of the plants in the garden and replace the plants as necessary. They will water, weed, and pick up trash around the garden to keep it a place where students can enjoy themselves during their lunch break and throughout the school day. We continue to endeavor to have a permanent, self-sustaining native plant pollinator garden that supports a variety of pollinator species and increases the diversity of plants on our campus.

Students maintaining the garden



4. Location and Timeline: The pollinator garden is located in the science quad, adjacent to all the biology classrooms and indoor laboratories. The project will begin in the winter of 2025 and continue through the spring of 2026.

5. Budget: The maintenance of the garden requires a variety of supplies, including garden tools, soil, compost, plants, trees, and mulch. Grant funds will be used to purchase the necessary materials to ensure the success of this project. Additionally, the district's grounds team will assist with maintaining and repairing the existing sprinkler system. The district is funding these repairs.

Budget Spreadsheet

Item	Quantity/vendor	Amount	Non-Consumables
Shovels	10 @ \$20.00- Home Depot	\$200	x
Garden gloves	20 @ \$10.00- Home Depot	\$200	x
Garden Soil	25 bags @ \$12.00 – Home Depot	\$300	
Mulch/compost	25 bags @ \$12.00 – Home Depot	\$300	
Plants & Trees	Anderson's La Costa Nursery	\$1000	
	Total	\$2000	

References

Nabors, A., Hung, K.J., Corkidi, L., & Bethke, J.A. (2022). California Native Perennials Attract Greater Native Pollinator Abundance and Diversity Than Nonnative, Commercially Available Ornamentals in Southern California. *Environmental Entomology*, 51, 836 - 847.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 26, 2025
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager
SUBJECT: 2025 Water Career Day Overview



RECOMMENDATION:

This item is provided for information only.

DISCUSSION:

Tactical Goal: Services/Plan – Coordinate and Participate in the Water Career Day

After several months of planning, the District, in partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District and San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, successfully hosted our 2nd Water Career Day on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. The event was held at the San Elijo Joint Powers Authority campus and featured hands-on demonstrations designed to introduce students and transitioning veterans to careers opportunities in the water and wastewater industry.

The purpose of this item is to provide the CAC with a brief summary of the event. A more detailed report is attached. During the upcoming CAC meeting, staff will present key event highlights, participant feedback, outcomes and lessons learned.

Attachment

th:PB

2025 Water Career Day Summary Report

Objective

To inspire high school, college, and early military veteran talent to explore careers in the wastewater and water industry by providing hands-on demonstrations that simulate everyday tasks and work environments.

Outreach Efforts, Participants, Attendees, and Event Activities Timeline

Outreach efforts targeting high schools and colleges began in May 2025, followed by approximately 2 months of detailed event planning. The event was hosted at the San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) campus on October 22, 2025.

Participants

Three agencies collaborated to provide staff, equipment, and funding:

- ❖ Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD)
- ❖ Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD)
- ❖ San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA)

Attendees

A total of **80 attendees**

- ❖ 30 High School Students
- ❖ 50 College Students (majority were community college students)
- ❖ Six Community Education Partners
 - Mission Hills High School
 - MiraCosta College
 - MiraCosta Career Technical Institute
 - Palomar College

Event Activities and Educational Opportunities

Students visited seven stations that allowed for a hands-on experience. Examples of hands-on demonstrations included:

- Operate the CCTV robot
- Use wastewater samples to view microbial under a microscope
- Turning valves on equipment

Additional Activities:

- ❖ Lunch was provided to all attendees
- ❖ Agencies and partners provided promotion giveaways, career guidance and information on obtaining skills needed for wastewater/water careers

Fiscal Impact

- ❖ LWD's FY26 Budget included \$7,500 for this event
- ❖ Costs were shared among LWD, OMWD, and SEJPA
- ❖ Total event cost: \$11,000

Outcome of the Event and Post-Event Survey Results

The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees and participating organizations, both in-person and through post-event surveys.

Key Survey Findings:

- ❖ 13 survey responses expressed 100% interest in pursuing a career in water/wastewater
- ❖ The top three stations were:
 - SEJPA Laboratory
 - LWD's Vactor truck
 - LWD's CCTV truck

Post Event Resources:

- ❖ A [video](#) highlighting the event was produced
- ❖ A photo database documenting the event was created
- ❖ The event was shared on social media
- ❖ The event was featured in an article published by [The Coast News](#), [Water News Network](#), and more

Anecdotal Feedback from the Event

"Seeing all the parts of the plant and new equipment I have only seen in books. It helps provide a practical aspect to what I have learned in my classes."

"Personally, it was the opportunity to see how the Vactor truck works. I always see them on the road and think what they're used for. It was interesting to see them in action and Rick explained the instrumentation well."

Conclusion

The 2025 Water Career Day successfully achieved its objective of sparking interest in the water and wastewater industry among young talent. Valuable feedback was gathered to enhance future events, ensuring they remain impactful and educational. Staff plans on scheduling a future meeting with SEJPA and OMWD in January 2026 to begin planning for the 3rd event in the fall of 2026.