

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86982880432?pwd=z1hrKVbglHnUYWydPnZbxasStDf4oS.1>

Meeting ID: 869 8288 0432 Passcode: 259701

1. **Call to Order**
Teleconference with President Brown at the following location:
Moulton Nigel Water District
26161 Gordon Road
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Spring 2026 Newsletter Draft Text Review. (Pages 2-8)**
5. **Information Items**
None.
6. **Directors' Comments**
7. **General Manager's Comments**
8. **Adjournment**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2026
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager 
SUBJECT: Spring 2026 Newsletter Draft Text Review

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Spring 2026 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

On February 10th, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the spring 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 spring 2026 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

LWD's Spring 2026 Newsletter Articles

From Classroom to Careers: Educating the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

At Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD), protecting public health and the environment begins with education. Over the past several years, we have expanded our community outreach efforts to reach students from kindergarten through college - building awareness of wastewater services, environmental stewardship, and career opportunities in the water industry at every stage of learning. What began as individual programs has grown into a comprehensive education initiative that connects classroom learning with real-world application.

LWD provides funding to local educators within its service area to support hands-on projects related to wastewater or water resource management through our long-standing Teacher Grant Program. Since the program's inception, over twenty thousand local students have participated in lessons that explore wastewater treatment, storm drain awareness, recycled water, and responsible environmental practices. Grant recipients also receive in-person demonstrations from our Field Services team, who bring equipment, trucks, and practical expertise directly to campus - making wastewater science tangible and engaging for young learners.

As students advance, we continue that educational thread. LWD's annual Water Career Day, hosted in partnership with neighboring agencies, welcomes high school students, college students, and transitioning veterans for an immersive introduction to careers that support public health and environmental protection. Attendees participate in hands-on demonstrations, speak directly with industry professionals, and gain insight into the skilled trades, technical roles, and environmental positions that help maintain critical community infrastructure.

These efforts serve a dual purpose: building everyday awareness about responsible wastewater practices, while introducing students to meaningful public sector careers dedicated to protecting lagoons, beaches, and neighborhoods. By investing in education across all ages, we aim to strengthen community understanding while supporting long-term sustainability of the water and wastewater workforce.

Sewer System vs. Storm Drain System: What's the Difference?

Residents occasionally ask about the difference between sewer and storm drain systems. While both are underground pipe systems, they serve very different purposes — and are managed by different agencies.

The sewer system, operated and maintained by LWD carries wastewater from homes and businesses - including water from sinks, showers, toilets, and washing machines. That wastewater travels through a closed pipeline system to regional treatment facilities, where it is treated before being safely released.

The storm drain system, on the other hand is a completely separate pipeline system that collects rainwater runoff from streets, roofs, and driveways. Stormwater typically flows directly into local creeks, lagoons, and ultimately the ocean without being treated. Storm drain systems are managed by individual cities, not LWD.

During heavy rain events, you may see temporary beach advisories. These are often related to stormwater runoff — not the sewer system.

LWD remains committed to maintaining a reliable sewer system that protects our lagoons, beaches, and neighborhoods year-round.

Did you know?

1. Batiquitos Lagoon is home to **more than 180** species of birds throughout the year. Healthy wetlands provide food, nesting areas, and protection for wildlife, which is why protecting water quality matters beyond just our beaches.
2. Great blue herons often seen standing quietly along the lagoon's edge, can stand more than four feet tall and rely on healthy wetlands to find fish and small prey.

Word Puzzle: Try to Unscramble these Words Related to LWD and its Service Area:

- NOGOLA
- RHEON
- RSEEW
- EHCAB
- TEAWR

Answers found at bottom of Page 5

Water Career Day 2026 - Coming Soon!

Leucadia Wastewater District, in partnership with San Elijo Joint Powers Authority and Olivenhain Municipal Water District, is excited to host our annual Water Career Day in fall 2026.

This hands-on event introduces high school and college students to careers in the water and wastewater industry. Participants will explore interactive stations, meet industry professionals, and learn about certifications, internships, and career pathways in this essential and growing field. We invite area high schools, college students, and teachers to participate in this unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world applications in science, engineering, and environmental protection.

For event details and participation information, visit www.lwwd.org or contact us directly at info@lwwd.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: “Are you part of the City of Encinitas or Carlsbad?”

Answer: No. Leucadia Wastewater District is an independent special district that provides wastewater services within its service area in northern Encinitas and southeastern Carlsbad. See our Service Area Map here: <https://www.lwwd.org/about/service-area-map>

Question: “I just moved here. Do I need to set up a sewer account?”

Answer: No action is typically required. Sewer service charges are included on your property tax bill.

Question: “Can I drain my pool into the street?”

Answer: Pool drainage guidelines are managed by your city, as storm drains flow directly to creeks and the ocean. If you are considering discharging pool water to the wastewater system, please contact LWD first for proper direction.

Question: “Are “flushable” wipes safe to flush?”

Answer: No. Wipes do not break down like toilet paper and can cause blockages in sewer lines. Only toilet paper should be flushed.

Question: Is it okay to pour grease or cooking oil down the sink?

Answer: No. Grease, fats, and oil harden as they cool and stick to pipe walls. Over time, this buildup can cause serious clogs and sewer backups. Tip: Let grease cool, then dispose of it in the trash.

Protecting Our Lagoons and Beaches - Every Day

As summer approaches, we remain focused on our core mission: protecting public health and the environment.

We operate a sanitary sewer system that safely collects wastewater from homes and businesses and conveys it to a treatment plant. This system is entirely independent from storm drain systems, which collect rainwater from streets and roofs and are typically managed by local cities. During heavy rain events, stormwater runoff can carry debris and pollutants into creeks and lagoons that eventually reach the ocean.

To protect local waterways such as Batiquitos Lagoon, LWD has built redundancy into its infrastructure. Backup generators, emergency storage capacity, redundant pumps, and continuous system monitoring help prevent spills before they occur and minimize impacts in the unlikely event of an emergency.

These investments reflect LWD’s long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. By maintaining a reliable wastewater collection system and preventing sewer spills, LWD helps protect lagoons, beaches, and coastal resources that our community enjoys year-round.

Environmental protection is not seasonal - it is a daily responsibility. As residents and visitors head to the coast this spring and summer, LWD remains dedicated to keeping its system operating safely and efficiently behind the scenes.

Check Out Our Live Surf Cam

Did you know LWD hosts a live camera overlooking our beautiful local coastline? The camera provides real-time views of the ocean, giving residents and visitors a chance to check surf conditions while enjoying a glimpse of the beaches we work hard to protect.

The surf cam is more than just a scenic view; it reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship. Protecting our beaches, lagoons, and coastal waters is at the heart of what we do every day. Through proactive maintenance and careful infrastructure planning, LWD has maintained years of reliable service without a sewer spill.

You can view the live surf cam anytime by visiting www.lwwd.org

Is Your Sewer Blocked? Here's Who to Call

At times, our technicians respond to homeowners' calls about sewer blockages, and we're happy to come by to see if the issue is caused by a blockage in the District's sewer main. If the blockage is not in the District's sewer main, we advise residents to call your plumber to inspect and clean the homeowner's sewer lateral. For service or emergencies, call LWD at (760) 753-0155 or visit www.lwwd.org for more information.

If your sewer lateral needs repair, we offer our customers a Lateral Grant Reimbursement Program. The District has a financial assistance program that can reimburse 50% of the repair cost, up to a maximum of \$3,000. Details can be found here: <http://bit.ly/LatGrant>

Fiscal Year 2025 Gravity Pipeline Rehabilitation Project Successfully Completed!

We're pleased to announce the Fiscal Year 2025 Gravity Pipeline Rehabilitation Project was successfully completed in September 2025.

This project included two locations with defective sewer pipes. The first location on Piraeus Street replaced 625 linear feet of deep sewer because of a pipe settling defect. The second location near El Camino Real and Encinitas Blvd replaced 10 feet of deformed sewer pipe with major root intrusion. The three-month construction effort was completed on schedule and within budget. With the successful completion of this project, residents can continue to count on dependable service backed by thoughtful planning and sound engineering.

Batiquitos Pump Station Drywell Concrete Repair Successfully Completed!

The Batiquitos Pump Station is our largest facility, pumping approximately 5 million gallons of wastewater each day. The drywell is a critical component of the station, housing four large pumps and associated piping, as well as an emergency generator, and a surge tank.

In July 2025, LWD began design efforts to repair a corroded concrete beam needed to support the station's structure. The construction contract was awarded in October 2025 and work began in February 2026.

Repairs were completed in April 2026, restoring the drywell's full structural integrity. This project helps ensure the continued reliability and to maintain peak performance of the pump station.

Standout Achievements: Staff Awards, Professional Certs, District Awards

Congratulations to:

Executive Assistant Tianne Baity - 20 years of Service Award

Field Services Technician Curney Russel - 10 years of Service Award

Field Services Technician Angel Hinojosa for receiving his Grade 2 Collection System Maintenance certification from the California Water Environmental Association! Angel was also promoted to a Field Services Technician 2!

Field Services Technician Matthew Anderson for receiving his Grade 2 Collection System Maintenance certification from the California Water Environmental Association! Matthew was also promoted to a Field Services Technician 2!

Field Services Supervisor Rick Easton for his recent promotion from Field Services Technician 3 to Field Services Supervisor. In his new role, Rick will help lead a team responsible for maintaining the District's sewer system and protecting our community's beaches, lagoon, and neighborhoods.

Jeffrey Pivaral Named Collections Person of the Year

LWD is proud to announce that Jeffrey Pivaral, Field Services Technician, has been named Collections Person of the Year by the San Diego Section of CWEA. This award recognizes excellence in maintaining wastewater collection systems. Jeffrey's dedication to preventative maintenance, safety, and service reliability helps protect our community and local waterways. Congratulations, Jeffrey, on this well-earned honor!

Local Agencies Honored with CWEA Community Engagement Award

Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD), in partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District and San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, has received the **2026 Community Engagement and Outreach Program of the Year Award** from the State and San Diego Local Section of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA).

The award recognizes the success of the 2025 Water Career Day, a collaborative outreach event designed to educate high school students, community college students, and transitioning veterans about careers in water, wastewater, and recycled water. Held at the San Elijo Water Campus, the event featured hands-on demonstrations, interactive stations, and direct engagement with industry professionals.

This regional recognition highlights the power of partnership and the importance of investing in the next generation of water professionals. We are grateful to our dedicated staff and community partners who helped make this achievement possible.

Get the latest updates from the Leucadia Wastewater District!

Inside this newsletter, read about bringing wastewater education to life, capital improvement projects, frequently asked questions, and who you should call when your sewer line is blocked, along with other helpful resources for community members. Subscribe to our email newsletter for biannual updates for the District at: (insert QR code)

Quick Question:

How many species of birds have been documented at Batiquitos Lagoon?

- A) 25
- B) 75
- C) More than 180

Answer inside.