

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Thursday, September 3, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

[Link to Join Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 284 419 893 483 354

Passcode: Vr7Vx2qU

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 2026
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager 
SUBJECT: Fall 2026 Newsletter Draft Text Review

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

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

DISCUSSION:

On August 3rd, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the fall 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 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 Fall 2026 Newsletter Articles

Lead Article Option A: Exploring Careers in Water: 2026 Water Career Day

Leucadia Wastewater District, in partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District and San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, recently hosted the third annual Water Career Day at the San Elijo Water Campus, giving local high school students a hands-on introduction to careers in the water and wastewater industry.

This year, the event expanded with **more interactive stations to accommodate a growing number of students and give them the opportunity to experience the work firsthand.** Rather than simply watching demonstrations, students rolled up their sleeves and tried many of the same tools and techniques used by water professionals every day.

Students collected wastewater samples and examined them under microscopes to identify microorganisms, drove a CCTV robot through a section of pipe, and learned how different water-jetting nozzles are selected to clean the inside of sewer pipelines. At another station, students experienced the difference between manually cranking a valve and using a specialized valve-turning truck to do the same job.

These activities introduced students to the variety of skills and career paths that keep our water and wastewater systems operating. From biology and environmental science to technology, mechanics and skilled field work, **the industry offers meaningful careers that protect public health, our environment and the infrastructure our communities depend on.**

And we are already seeing an impact. Educators who participated in the first two Water Career Days have shared that students are pursuing water technology and engineering programs after attending, and one former student has already begun a career in the water industry as a SCADA Technician.

By putting the equipment directly into students' hands - and introducing them to the professionals who use it every day - Water Career Day helps students see the water and wastewater industry as a potential career of their own.

Lead Article Option B: Using Cutting Edge Technology to Maintain Our Sewer System

While most of Leucadia Wastewater District's (LWD) infrastructure is out of sight below our streets, advanced technology allows our team to see inside the sewer system. By proactively

monitoring our underground pipe network, we can address potential issues long before they cause service disruptions or costly emergencies.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection is a critical way we help maintain the sewer system. Robot-like cameras travel through pipelines to identify cracks, root intrusion, and other issues before they become larger problems. Housed in a **specialized electric vehicle**, this equipment allows crews to efficiently conduct inspections throughout the District.

For large, pressurized pipelines known as force mains, LWD uses a different innovation called the **SmartBall®**. **This baseball-sized, free-swimming inspection tool is packed with a variety of sensors and travels directly through active pressurized pipelines.** Once inserted, the SmartBall flows alongside wastewater to detect leaks, metal loss, and gas pockets, collecting valuable information without interrupting service. Traditionally, force main condition assessments required excavating and cutting out pieces of pipe from a few high-risk locations, leaving the rest of the pipeline unexamined. The SmartBall®, however, evaluates the entire length of the force main, providing a more complete picture of pipeline conditions while saving the District more than \$250,000 compared to conventional methods.

Together, CCTV, SmartBall and other innovative technologies give LWD a better understanding of what is happening beneath the surface. That information helps the District prioritize maintenance, plan future improvements, and address potential problems before they become emergencies - keeping our wastewater system reliable while making responsible use of customer funds.

Protecting Our System: Why Manholes Matter

Manholes play a critical role in maintaining the wastewater system. They provide access points for inspection, cleaning, and emergency response - helping our crews keep pipelines functioning safely and efficiently.

With more than **5,000 manholes across the District**, these structures are essential infrastructure assets. Our crews regularly open and inspect them as part of routine maintenance and system monitoring.

Occasionally, we have found manholes that were either tampered with or vandalized. This can create serious safety risks and interfere with the proper operation of the system. A displaced, damaged, or improperly replaced manhole cover can create a dangerous opening or uneven surface for pedestrians, cyclists, pets, and vehicles. Even small actions - like placing debris into a manhole - can lead to blockages, equipment damage, or other problems with the pipeline system.

Manholes should never be opened or tampered with. **If you notice an open or damaged manhole, please call us at (760) 753-0155, so our team can respond quickly.**

Fiscal Year 2026 System Activity (With Graphic Intro Text)

Each year, our crews perform essential maintenance to keep the system running smoothly. In fiscal year 2026:

- **82 miles** of pipeline were video inspected.
- **184 miles** of pipeline were cleaned.
- **84,000,000 gallons** of recycled water were produced.
- **5,000 manholes** were inspected/utilized.

These efforts help prevent issues before they occur and ensure reliable service for the community.

Did You Know? (Option #1)

We have been putting cameras in sewer pipes for decades

Long before today's digital cameras and computerized inspection vehicles, LWD was already using closed-circuit television to inspect underground sewer pipes. Technology has advanced dramatically, but the purpose remains the same: find potential problems before they become bigger problems.

LWD has been recycling water for more than 60 years (Option #2)

Water recycling may sound like a modern solution, but the Leucadia Wastewater District was ahead of its time. Beginning in 1962, the wastewater treated from the District was reused to irrigate the La Costa Golf Course. More than six decades later, recycled water is still helping irrigate the golf course and conserve valuable drinking water supplies.

Teacher Grant Applications Now Open

The Teacher Grant Program is now accepting applications from local educators.

These grants support classroom projects that promote water and environmental education, helping students better understand how wastewater systems protect public health and the environment. Teachers are encouraged to apply now, as applications are due **Friday, November 13, 2026**. (Link to QR with more information)

Holiday Reminder: No Place for FOG During the Holidays

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) can build up in sewer lines and cause blockages - especially during the holiday season when cooking increases.

Instead of pouring grease down the drain, allow it to cool, pour leftover FOG into a can, and **dispose of it in the trash**. Before washing greasy pots and pans, wipe excess FOG with a paper towel. Small actions at home help prevent larger issues in the system.

Write to our team at info@lwwd.org and we will send you a top to put over a can, so you do not spill the grease before disposing.

Summer Smoke Testing Helps Protect the System

We recently completed its annual smoke testing program to identify potential issues in the sewer system.

This process uses harmless, water-based vapor to locate leaks, cracks, and improper connections - such as yard drains connected to sewer lines. Most issues identified were minor and addressed quickly.

Smoke testing helps ensure the system remains efficient and prevents stormwater from entering wastewater pipelines. It is critical to keep stormwater out of the sewer system because excessive stormwater can overload the system and potentially cause a sewer backup or spill.

Are You a Smart Flusher?

Take the Quiz

Test your knowledge of what belongs in the sewer system:

1. Which of the following should **never** be flushed?
 - A) Paper towels
 - B) Wipes labeled "flushable"
 - C) Cooking grease
 - D) All of the above
2. True or False: "Flushable wipes" break down the same as toilet paper.
3. What happens when grease enters sewer pipes?
 - A) It dissolves
 - B) It hardens and can cause blockages
 - C) It improves flow
4. How many items does it take to start a blockage?
 - A) Many

- B) Just a few
- C) Hundreds

Find the answers at the bottom of Page 5.

Helping Homeowners Maintain Private Sewer Lines

LWD's **Lateral Reimbursement Program** helps homeowners offset the cost of repairing or replacing private sewer laterals.

Several residents have already participated in this program, and by making improvements to their sewer lateral, it helps protect both their property and the public sewer system.

If you are experiencing issues with your sewer lateral, LWD may be able to help. Call or message us at info@lwwd.org or 760.753.0155

See Our Crew at Work – Scan to Learn More

If you see our crews working in your neighborhood, scan QR codes located on District vehicles to learn more about what they are doing. These codes link directly to LWD's website, which explains the work they are performing, like CCTV inspections and pipeline cleaning.

Replacing Critical Infrastructure Before It Fails

Diana Pump Station Improvements

Construction continues in our effort to upgrade one of our pump stations located just west of Hwy 101 on Diana Street, including the installation of a new emergency generator and electrical improvements.

These upgrades will improve system reliability, particularly during power outages, and help ensure continuous operation of this critical facility. This project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

FY 2027 Gravity Pipeline Project – A Proactive Pipeline Improvement

We are preparing for our Fiscal Year 2027 Gravity Pipeline Project, which will focus on rehabilitating pipeline segments identified through camera inspections. The project will consist of a trenchless and restoration repair method known as Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP) lining because it is more cost-effective, less intrusive, and requires significantly less time to complete than the open trench/excavation repair method. The Project includes the rehab of nineteen sewer line segments totaling over 4,600 linear feet.

This proactive work helps extend the life of infrastructure and prevent future issues - ensuring continued reliable service for the community.

Standout Achievements: Staff Awards and District Awards

Local Agencies Honored with CASA's Public Outreach Education Award

Leucadia Wastewater District, alongside partners Olivenhain Municipal Water District and San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, were awarded with the 2026 California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Award of Excellence for our collaborative educational outreach efforts of Water Career Day. The program brings together multiple agencies to promote careers in the water industry and educate the next generation with hands-on learning for high school, college, and transitioning military talent.

Excellence in Financial Reporting

We received the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence** in Financial Reporting, recognizing the District's commitment to transparency and high-quality financial management.

Safety Milestone - 7 Years Without a Lost-Time Injury

LWD has achieved seven consecutive years without a lost-time injury - a significant milestone reflecting the District's strong safety culture and commitment to its employees.

Administrative Services Supervisor Trisha Hill – 25 Years of Service Award

Call for Local Photographers – Share Your Photos with LWD

LWD is always looking for local photography to feature in future newsletters, on our website, and across digital platforms. Have a great photo of our community, coastline, or environment? Submit your photos by emailing info@lwwd.org or posting them on Facebook or Instagram with the #DISTRICTPhoto.