

**AGENDA**

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING  
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

April 10, 2014 –10:00 AM  
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. New Business**
  - A. Review of the Spring 2014 Draft Newsletter Layout. (Pages 2-6)
- 5. Information Items**
  - A. Website Update. (Verbal)
- 6. Director's Comments**
- 7. General Manager's Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 3, 2014  
**TO:** Community Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Paul J. Bushee, General Manager   
**SUBJECT:** Spring 2014 Newsletter Draft Layout Review

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft layout for the Spring 2014 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

**DISCUSSION:**

During February 2014, TRG and Associates (TRG) developed a list of story ideas for the summer 2012 newsletter. During March, draft text was prepared and presented to the CAC and staff for comments.

Comments by the CAC and staff have been incorporated into the proposed draft newsletter layout. TRG and staff will present the proposed newsletter layout at the CAC meeting.

Attached please find the draft layout for the spring 2014 Newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

cal:PJB

# DOWNSTREAM

NEWSLETTER

WASTEWATER AND RECYCLED WATER SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES WITHIN ENCINITAS, LA COSTA, AND LEUCADIA

## Board of Directors

David Kulchin, President  
 Allan H. Juliussen, Vice President  
 Don Omsted, Director  
 Judy Hanson, Director  
 Elaine Sullivan, Director  
 Paul J. Bushee, General Manager

## The Future of Recycled Water

Despite our best water conservation efforts, about 95% of all the water we use goes down the drain, through the wastewater treatment process and then is discharged — to the ocean, or rivers, depending on where you live.

### What if, instead, we could reclaim or recycle that water?

Water is now one of the hot topics worldwide, with concerns about climate change, droughts and even flooding. Lots of rain or no rain, water is not always where we need it the most.

California's current drought has re-ignited the search for creative solutions for our limited water supply. While this is a topic familiar to most of us, local and statewide agencies are again aggressively seeking opportunities that will help conserve this precious resource.

Leucadia Wastewater District is also looking ahead. As one of the early pioneers of recycled water in North San Diego County, we are committed to ensuring that we do our part to sustain water supplies through conservation and new technologies.

Today, LWD continues to support this goal by providing "recycled water" from wastewater for irrigation of the South Golf Course at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. It's an important process that saves precious drinking water (also called potable) by providing highly treated wastewater for irrigation purposes.

Water recycling, as we know it at LWD, is not a new process, but thanks to advances in technology, pure water can now be produced from wastewater. With the increasing population and limited water supply in California, we believe that purified wastewater will be used to supplement potable water supplies in the future.

*Continued on page two*



*Omni La Costa Resort and Spa uses recycled water to keep the golf course green and lush.*

# The Future of Recycled Water

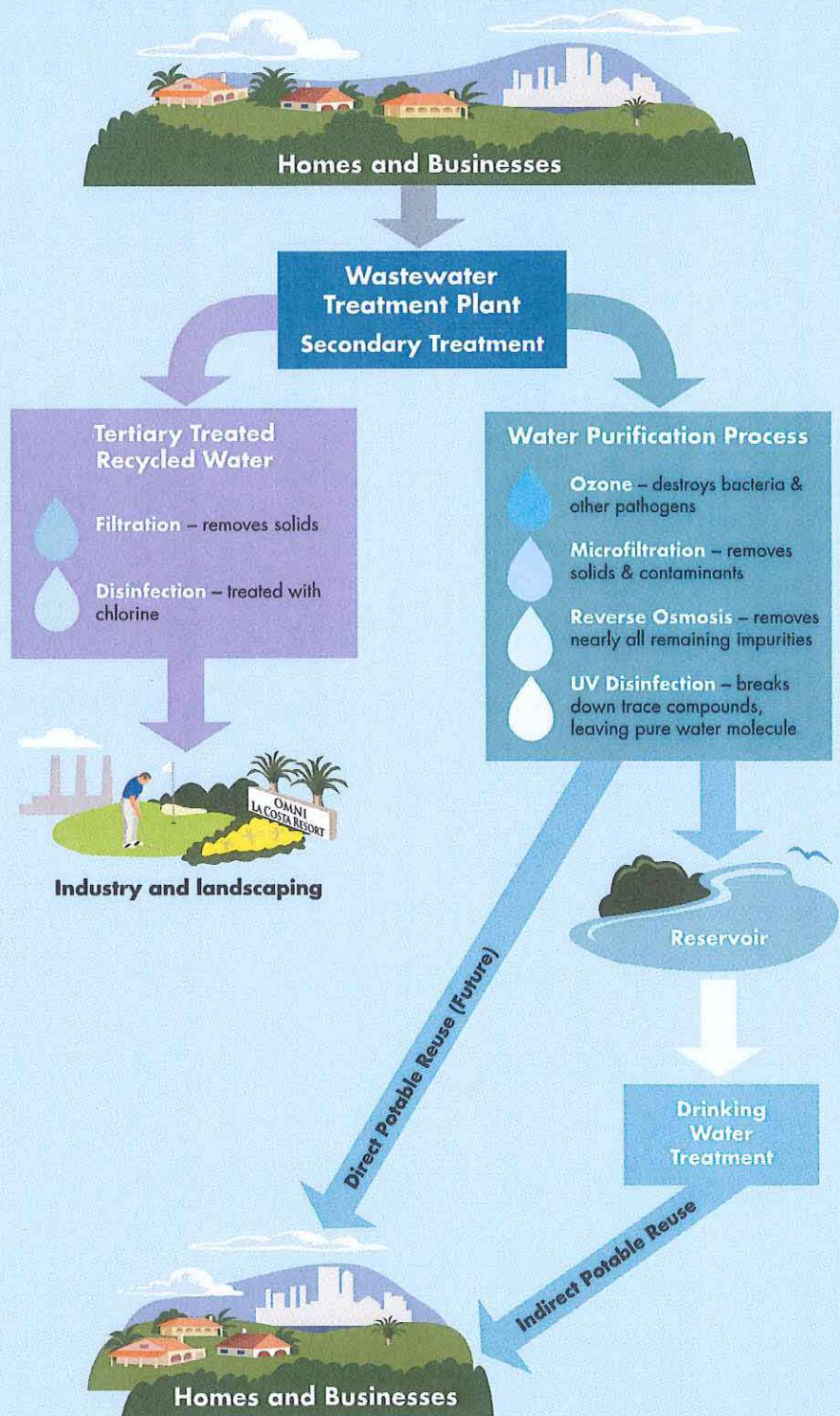
Continued from front page

In fact, purified wastewater is already supplementing drinking water supplies in Southern California today. There are two main processes that produce pure water from wastewater. One process, known as "indirect potable reuse", is already being used at the Orange County Water District and the West Basin Municipal Water District located near Los Angeles. This process involves injecting purified water from wastewater into underground aquifers to replenish water supplies in Orange and Los Angeles counties. In many ways, this process mimics nature's hydrologic water cycle by allowing natural filtration and purification to occur.

The second method, called "direct potable reuse," differs from indirect potable reuse in that the purified wastewater is introduced directly into a municipal water supply system without an environmental "buffer" of any kind. While direct potable reuse is not allowed in California at this time, legislation signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010 requires that the California Department of Public Health evaluate potential regulations for direct potable reuse by 2016.

It's too early to tell what the future of LWD's recycled water program will be. However, we will continue to participate with ten other public agencies in the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition to seek efficient ways to partner and explore water reuse opportunities. But as the drought continues and there is increased pressure to find a solution, it's certain that changes are ahead for the recycled water industry. LWD staff and Board of Directors will continue to monitor and evaluate new technologies and regulations as they occur with the goal of conserving and protecting our precious water supply.

## Water Recycling Process



Purple sprinkler heads identify where recycled water is being used.

# Our 2014 Teacher Grant Recipients

Each year, **LWD awards grants to local schools** within its jurisdiction to promote conservation and environmental responsibility to students. LWD has won two industry awards for the Teacher Grant Program because of its cost effective approach to community involvement. This year, two schools were awarded grants to help support their school gardening efforts:

**El Camino Creek Elementary** was awarded \$1,000 for its innovative self-watering pot conversion project. Their student H<sub>2</sub>O club and teacher Jennifer Smith developed the idea for the project after observing that their ornamental plants on campus were either wasting water or not being properly irrigated. They identified a system using Eco-Grow pots and looked for drought-tolerant plants that will flourish in our local climate. The students will be informing the entire school about the importance of water conservation as they watch their plants thrive with the new system.

**Park Dale Lane Elementary**, led by teacher Bethany Luna and a group of donors, volunteers and students, have an existing garden that is thriving and used to educate students about nutrition and the benefits of gardening. To take the garden even further, they now want to expand its use for teaching science, art, reading, history and conservation through experiential learning. All grades have the opportunity to participate in the garden. The students and volunteers will be planting drought-tolerant succulents and native plants while learning the importance of water conservation. The garden is located next to the library, providing a lovely quiet space for students to read and reflect.

Congratulations to both schools for their outstanding contributions to their schools and our communities!



Park Dale Lane Elementary teacher, Bethany Luna and her students enjoy working in their drought-tolerant garden.



El Camino Creek's H<sub>2</sub>O club promotes water conservation.

## Proposed Rate Increase

Last year, the Leucadia Wastewater District Board of Directors commissioned a comprehensive study to update its long range Financial Plan. This Plan, in conjunction with the District's Asset Management Plan, provides critical information regarding required operating and capital expenditures for the next 20 years. The Financial Plan Update indicated that in order for the District to meet future financial obligations and maintain the integrity of its collection system, a sewer service charge increase was required. The LWD Board of Directors adopted the Comprehensive Financial Plan Update on June 12, 2013 with the intent of increasing LWD's sewer service charge.

Based on the recommendations contained in the Financial Plan Update, the LWD Board of Directors is proposing rate increases for the next three fiscal years. All rates are based on the standard fee for one home, referred to as one Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). The current San Diego County average sewer charge is \$51.77 per month or \$621.24 per year per EDU based on a 2013 survey. LWD's current rate is \$21.52 per month or \$258.21 per year.

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, starting at 5 p.m. to consider public input on the proposed sewer service charge rates for the next three fiscal years. The public hearing will be held in the Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD) Board Room located at 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009. If approved, rate increases will be adjusted in July of each year in accordance with the following chart.

Fiscal Year	Annual Rate	Monthly Rate
2014 (Current)	\$258.21	\$21.52
2015	\$284.04	\$23.67
2016	\$312.44	\$26.04
2017	\$343.68	\$28.64

# DOWNSTREAM

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## And the Awards Go To....

**We like to recognize the exemplary work of our employees in every newsletter - and**

not just because we take pride in their achievements. These awards we mention benefit you, the ratepayer, as well, because they reflect our attention to safety, maintenance of our pipelines and pump stations, and other practices that help keep our rates some of the lowest in the County and protect our local environment.

**Gabe Mendez**, Field Services Technician II, was awarded the CA Water Environment Association (CWEA) San Diego Section's Collection System Person of the Year Award. The CWEA Awards' Committee based their decision on Gabe's active and positive role in the internship program and mentoring new LWD employees. In addition, LWD has benefited from Gabe's innovative ideas that saved LWD in maintenance costs, which helps keep our rates low. Gabe will now compete at the state level for another award.



**LWD** was also awarded the "Safety Award" from the California Water Environmental Association (CWEA) San Diego Section for our record of **no accidents and injuries.** The California Sanitation Risk Management Authority awarded LWD the "Workers Compensation Excellence Award" for achieving **zero on-the-job accidents** during fiscal year 2012-2013. This recognition helps to keep our insurance rates low.



## Looking for Scholarships?

The CA Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) Education Foundation will be distributing two \$5,000 scholarships for students studying engineering, environmental science, public administration or other clean water industry-related subjects. Please contact [casmith@casaweb.org](mailto:casmith@casaweb.org) for the application and more information.



LEADERS IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 236  
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1960 LA COSTA AVENUE  
CARLSBAD, CA 92009



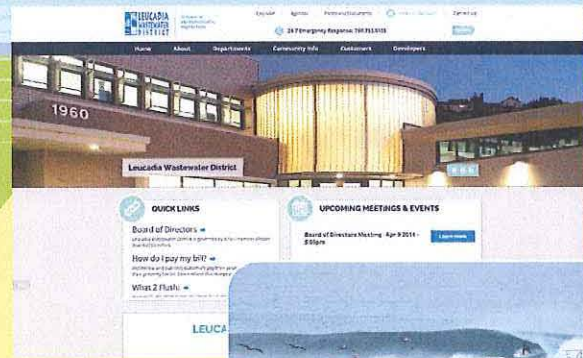
Printed on FSC recycled paper  
with soy-based ink

### Prefer Email?

Contact us at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) to start receiving electronic editions of the biannual newsletter and occasional Leucadia Wastewater District updates.

## Visit Our New Website

We've remodeled our website to provide even more information and transparency to our ratepayers and customers. In addition to posting agendas and meeting information, there are easy to find resources and information about what we do and how we do it. You can even sign up to receive this newsletter electronically if you prefer. While you're there, click on the **Web Cam** on the top of the Home page. The Web Cam is posted at Batiquitos Pump Station, adjacent to the lagoon and across from Ponto Beach. Check out the sunshine, parking and waves before trekking to the beach!



Visit [lwwd.org](http://lwwd.org)



Ponto Beach Web Cam