

AGENDA
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT

March 10, 2014 – 10:30 AM
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **New Business**
 - A. Review Teacher Grant applications. (Pages 1-5)
 - B. Review the draft text of the Spring 2014 Newsletter. (Pages 6-9)
 - C. Recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a two-year extension to the TRG & Associations Professional Services Agreement for as needed public information services. (Pages 10-11)
5. **Information Items**

None.
6. **Director's Comments**
7. **General Manager's Comments**
8. **Adjournment**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2014
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager 
SUBJECT: Review of Teacher Grant Application(s)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the CAC recommend that Board of Directors:

1. Award the Teacher Grant(s); and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

Implementation of LWD's Teacher Grant Program was included as a tactical goal on the Fiscal Year 2014 Tactics and Action Plan.

During December 2013, staff provided grant information to nine elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school indicating that the submission deadline was February 28, 2014. The District has received two applications (attached).

The FY 14 budget includes \$5,000 to fund the Teacher Grant program, which is intended to fund up to five \$1,000 applications. Staff recommends that the CAC review the teacher grant application(s) and forward qualified application(s) to the Board of Director's at the March 12, 2014 meeting for their approval.

th:PJB

Attachment(s)



LEADERS IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Grant Application Form

During the 2013-2014 school year Leucadia Wastewater District will award grants to teachers in local elementary, middle, and/or high schools in LWD's service area. The District anticipates awarding up to five grants*up to \$1,000 each.

Use this cover sheet as page one of your application. Identifying information is to be included on the cover sheet only. IN YOUR PROJECT NARRATIVE DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME, THE NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL, OR THE NAME OF YOUR DISTRICT. Completed applications MUST BE emailed to thill@lwwd.org or received by Friday, February 28, 2014.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Teacher's name Bethany Luna

Grade Kindergarten Subject all

School name Park Dale Lane District Encinitas U.S.D.

School address, including street, city and zip 2050 Parkdale Lane

Principal's name Jodi Greenberger School phone number 760 944-4344

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

Project title Library Garden Grant amount requested \$1000.00

Teacher's signature Bethany A. Luna

Please tell us how you heard about this program

- Posture/Flyer Web site Another Educator Newsletter Other

LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT GRANT NARRATIVE

A. Description of project.

1. Our school educates its students about the importance of natural resources through the campus gardens. We have been fortunate enough, with the help of our hard-working and generous donors, volunteers, parents, and staff, to establish several gardens where students can grow their own plants, including fruits and vegetables. We now want to turn our attention to building a garden that would emphasize the water-conservation benefits of drought-tolerant plants. In addition to the unique educational opportunities this garden would provide, it would hold a special place at our school—we plan to dedicate it to the memory of one of our parents, who died of cancer earlier this school year.
2. All 550 students will get to use the garden, and teachers and staff can also utilize it for lessons as they see fit. We have a Garden Team made up of students, teachers, and volunteers that would spearhead the project and pull in other volunteers from the community.
3. There are several options for incorporating the water-conservation garden into the curriculum. Among them: 1) The garden can be used as the site for experiential and engaging science lessons for all grades (all students take a science class once a week) as well as our Science Club for upper-graders. Those lessons can encompass water conservation, propagation of plants such as succulents, plant biology, and more; 2) It can be used by our reading specialists as a safe and relaxing place where students who are below grade level can improve their reading skills; 3) The garden can be used for interdisciplinary lessons crafted by teachers—art classes, a study of the state’s native plants for fourth-graders studying California history, etc.
4. We have secured a \$400 donation from our PTA, an \$800 CSDA grant, a donation of native plants from a local family, and a commitment from our school district for all labor involved with clearing and preparing the garden site and installation of seating.
5. The garden will be located in the middle of our campus, outside the library. The school district has already begun clearing the site. Our goal is to have the garden completed by May 2, 2014.

B. Project objectives.

1. The garden would be a place where students can learn about water conservation, and the important role drought-tolerant plants play in our local environment.
2. The garden would be located by our library, where it could serve as a quiet place for students to gather and read, either on their own or as part of a lesson.
3. The garden would serve as a permanent memorial to the mother of one of our current students, honoring not only her dedication to the school but serving as a lovely remembrance for her child, his friends, and the teachers and parents who knew her.

C. Budget.

Native plants and succulents: \$2,000 (secured)
Bench seating for up to 30 students: \$2,200
PTA donation: \$400 (secured)
CSDA grant: \$800 (secured)
Balance: \$1,000



LEADERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Jennifer Smith, 5th Grade Teacher, Melissa Barbano PTA H2O Club

Teacher's name

5th

Water Conservation - Water Recycling

Grade

Subject

El Camino Creek Elementary

EUSD

School name

District

7885 Paseo Aliso, Carlsbad, CA 92009

School address, including street, city and zip

Carrie Brown

760-943-2051

Principal's name

School phone number

ECC-PTA

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

Self-Watering Pot Conversion \$1,000

Project title

Grant amount requested

Teacher's signature

Please tell us how you heard about this program

- Posture/Flyer Web site Another Educator Newsletter Other

Elaine Sullivan in conversation re: water conservation/reuse & PureGreen fertilizer & ECC's Garden Science/H2O Educational Program goals.

Self-Watering Pot Conversion Project

A club consisting entirely of fifth graders proposes to convert seventeen existing 20”D x 17”H ornamentally-planted pot containers into water-conserving “self-watering” vessels. The Club is in charge of maintenance and watering for all pots placed on campus to beautify our school’s environment. It has been their experience that water has been “wasted” when it overflows from the bottom drain holes of the existing containers. They have also noted how quickly the existing containers dry out in the warm weather of San Diego. In addition, since we have many school breaks it has been necessary to arrange supplemental watering when school is not in session. It is the Club’s intention to conserve water by having to water less frequently. They have proposed that they will also likely have healthier plants and root systems because of the more consistent supply of water it will have access to when it is needed.

Seventeen students will be directly involved, or more if we work in partnerships. Each student will be responsible for converting one existing pot into a water-conserving pot. Not only will students have to put together the Eco-Grow pot conversion kits to fit inside the existing ECC container, remove current plants from pot, install vessel and its accompanying water measuring tools, as well as figure out drainage but they will also be responsible for selecting plants that are water-wise when they replot their converted container and, ultimately, they will be responsible for their container’s care as the plants reestablish themselves to this new system. Students will be expected to be able identify the container’s current plants and decide whether they fit into our studied selections of water-wise and/or native plants for San Diego’s climate and drought conditions. We will provide cuttings and supplemental water-wise plants for the students to choose from in designing their converted containers. Plant spacing and pairing will also be studied. Rain barrel, garden sink and AC run-off collections will be sufficient to be used as our main source of water to maintain the new vessels going forward since we will be cutting our watering schedule in half, if not more.

Our club is easily identified on campus by our Club T-shirts we wear on work days and the student body is always interested in our projects. We will update the other grades at spirit assemblies and we will also have a demonstration and explanation of the conversion to encourage all students to bring the idea home to their families. The fifth graders are very excited about adopting a plan to embrace water conservation while still providing a beautiful environment that the student body takes great pride in! They feel they are doing their part.

Budget:

Product	Cost	Total
(17) 19” inch Eco-Grow Pots & tools	@ \$53.98/each (incl. tax)	\$917.66
Aeration Soil Components, plants	200 (difference paid by PTA)	\$82.34
		\$1000



One of only two existing succulent pots on campus. 15 are not water-wise plantings.



Eco Grow Pot system to fit inside existing campus containers.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2014
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager
SUBJECT: Spring 2014 Newsletter Draft Text



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

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

DISCUSSION:

LWD, in conjunction with TRG & Associates (TRG), is currently preparing the District's spring 2014 Newsletter. TRG and staff developed story ideas during February and recently completed the draft text.

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

Attachment

cal:PJB

COVER STORY

The Future of Recycled Water

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

Leucadia Wastewater District is looking ahead also. 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 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.

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 10 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 from farmers and environmentalist alike 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.

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	\$284.03	\$23.67
2016	\$312.43	\$26.04
2017	\$343.68	\$28.64

TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Waiting for deadline for details.

BACK

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.

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.

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.

Gabe Mendez, Field Services Technician, was awarded the CWEA San Diego Section’s Collection System Person of the Year Award. The CWEA Award’s 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.

Both awards will move on to compete in CWEA’s state level competition.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

We’ve remodeled our website to provide even more information to our ratepayers and customers. In addition to posting agendas and meeting information, there are resources and information about what we do and how we do it. While you’re at it, take a look at our Web Cam, which is posted at Batiquitos Pump Station, adjacent to the lagoon and across from Ponto Beach. Check out the sunshine and waves before trekking to the beach!

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2014
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager 
SUBJECT: TRG & Associates Contract Extension for Public Information Services

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Authorize the General Manager to execute a two-year extension to the TRG & Associates Professional Services Agreement for as needed public information services.
2. Discuss and provide direction as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

During March 2011, LWD entered into a Professional Services Agreement with TRG & Associates for Public Information Services. The initial contract period was for 3 years with an option to extend for 2 additional years. These terms were selected for efficiency and to allow for continuity of service beyond the initial term should it be warranted by TRG's performance.

The initial three-year period of the TRG agreement expired on March 8, 2014. Based on their performance and commitment to LWD, staff is recommending that the option for a two-year contract extension be executed.

Overall, TRG's performance has been very good and they have provided valuable assistance to our public information program.

Therefore, staff requests that the CAC recommend that the Board of Directors review the proposed Amendment No. 1 (attached) and authorize the General Manager to execute a two-year extension to the TRG & Associates Professional Services Agreement for public information services.

cal:PJB

Attachment

**AMENDMENT NO. 2
TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT
AND TRG & ASSOCIATES, INC..
FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES**

This Amendment No. 2 to the AGREEMENT is made and entered into this 12th day of MARCH, 2014 by and between the Leucadia Wastewater District, hereinafter referred to as DISTRICT, and TRG & Associates, Inc. hereinafter referred to as CONSULTANT.

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT and CONSULTANT entered into a three (3) year AGREEMENT for public information services on March 9, 2011; and

WHEREAS, said AGREEMENT expired on March 8, 2014; and

WHEREAS, said AGREEMENT includes an option to renew or extend the AGREEMENT for two (2) additional years; and

WHEREAS, DISTRICT has determined it would be most efficient to amend the AGREEMENT to extend the period of services from March 9, 2014 to March 8, 2016 or a period of two (2) years.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of their mutual promises, obligations, and covenants hereinafter contained, DISTRICT and CONSULTANT agree to amend the AGREEMENT as follows:

ARTICLE 1. TERM OF CONTRACT

Article 1: TERM OF CONTRACT, Section 1.01 shall be amended to read as follows:

1.01 The term of this contract shall be extended for a two year period commencing on March 9, 2014 and ending on March 8, 2016, or until terminated as provided under Article 7.

All other terms and conditions of the AGREEMENT shall remain unchanged.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto caused this AGREEMENT to be executed the day and year first above written.

TRG & ASSOCIATES, INC.

LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT

By: _____
Lois Humphreys, President

By: _____
Paul J. Bushee, General Manager