

**AGENDA**

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING  
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT  
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.  
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 the 2019 Winter Newsletter draft text. (Pages 2-8)
5. **Information Items**

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

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 10, 2019  
**TO:** Community Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Paul J. Bushee, General Manager   
**SUBJECT:** **Winter 2019 Newsletter Draft Text Review**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Winter 2019 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

**DISCUSSION:**

During November 2018, Rising Tide Partners (RTP) and staff presented a list of story ideas for the winter 2019 newsletter to the CAC for comments. RTP and staff have completed the draft newsletter text. RTP and staff will present the proposed newsletter text at the CAC meeting.

Attached please find the draft text for the winter 2019 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

## Smoke Testing Reveals Points of Storm Water Inflow

### *Smoke Testing is a Cost-Effective Way to Shore up the Sewer System*

Smoke testing offers a way for our Field Service Technicians to identify areas where storm water may be entering our sewer system. During the testing, a harmless smoke vapor is blown through the sewer system. If there are defects in the pipes, missing clean out caps, damage to laterals in yards or homes, or improper connections, the smoke will be visible at those specific areas. As a result, our Field Service Technicians are able to identify which pipes need repair, we can let homeowners know if their plumbing is not properly vented, and we can potentially uncover any plumbing defects. Homeowners will receive a letter if any defects are found.

Research has shown that over 65% of stormwater that enters the sewer system actually comes from sewer defects and broken or missing clean out caps. A sewage collection system is designed to collect and transport only wastewater. When storm water is introduced into the system – also called inflow – the additional water can cause the collection system to exceed its capacity. This can lead to a range of problems including sewer gasses leaking out of the system and causing the “rotten egg” smell, a sewage spill, or a sewage back up into a home.

As we continue with our smoke testing you will receive a notification from us prior to the actual tests in your area with dates, specific information about testing, and our contact information. In the future, you might even see a drone or two buzzing overhead to help identify system discrepancies. This is a cost-effective way to maintain the system.

## Be Part of the Solution

### *Pollution Prevention Starts at Home*

Maintaining the health of our community and protecting the coastline is a big job and one that we all need to work on together. While our staff and contractors clean, inspect, maintain and repair the sewer system, there are things you can do to help prevent sewer spills and conserve water as well!

#### *Cleaning Sewers*

What we do: Our Field Service Technicians clean, inspect, and maintain the sewer mains, manholes, and the pump stations to ensure the sewer flows free of roots, debris or grease, so that it can be properly treated or recycled.

What you can do: Homeowners can have their sewer lateral inspected by a licensed plumber to ensure their lateral has no defects. The sewer lateral is the pipe that connects your toilets, sinks, and showers to the District’s sewer mains. If defects are found and repairs are required then we can help defray some of the repair or replacement costs. That’s right, we can provide up to \$3,000 grants (50% match) for your plumber to repair your sewer lateral line! Roots from

trees and plants love to infiltrate this pipe through cracks or defects to find water and nutrients. For more information and to apply for a grant please visit <http://bit.ly/latgrant>

### *FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)*

What we do: Grease can clog the sewer lines or pumps at any one of our ten pump stations, and potentially cause a sewer spill. Our Field Service Technicians clean the sewer mains to remove blockages and our Field Service Specialist conducts as needed inspections at local restaurants to ensure grease traps are maintained and working properly.

What you can do: Don't pour FOG down your sink. Can it! Come by our office at 1960 La Costa Ave in Carlsbad and pick up a free can topper. Please pour your cooking grease and oils into a tin can, cover it with a can topper, let it harden, then remove the can topper and dispose of the grease in your trash. This can help keep FOG out of the sewer and help prevent your sewer lateral from backing up wastewater into your home. With nearly 20,500 homes and 64,000 people in our district, small actions by everyone have a big impact!

### *Recycling Water*

What we do: The Gafner Facility recycles and reuses an average of 7.6 million gallons per month of wastewater to irrigate the Omni La Costa South Golf Course. We also use the recycled water to water our California native plant landscaping at our facility.

What you can do: Add rainwater barrels to your home! Plants love pure rainwater and your garden will thank you with a bumper crop! Depending on your roof size, rain barrels can store hundreds of gallons of water in the wet season to keep your garden green all spring. See [socialwatersmart.com](http://socialwatersmart.com) for rebates! You can also plant water smart landscaping at your home to conserve water. See [watersmartsdlandscaping.org](http://watersmartsdlandscaping.org) for ideas and rebates.

### *Don't Flush your Expired Medications or Unused Paints!*

There are only three things that should be flushed down the toilet; pee, poo, and (toilet) paper, the 3 P's. Need to dispose of other items? Find out where to drop off expired medications, leftover paint and other household waste on our website at <http://bit.ly/LWDDispose>.

## Learning with Leucadia

### *Educational Opportunities, the "Living Lab" at LWD & Tours*

Grants awarded through our Teacher Grant Program have been increased to up to \$2,000 per grant. In total this year, we awarded \$5,900 for four schools projects in our service area. We had some excellent submissions this Fall and are pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Teacher Grant Program!

- June Honsberger from La Costa Canyon High School and her students will be designing and building a “Drought Tolerant Garden”
- Nancy Jois from Capri Elementary will produce her “Where does your Water Come From” video project
- Carrie Lancon from Capri Elementary will create her “Capri Wave Plastic Free Under the Sea” project
- Jennifer Smith from El Camino Creek Elementary will design and build a Hydroponic Garden

### *Schedule a Tour!*

Our staff led 5 tours of our main facility and the Gafner Treatment Plant over the past 6 months. This included students from local elementary schools, community members and other public agencies. As part of her “Where Does your Water Come From” project, Ms. Nancy Jois from Capri Elementary will be leading a group of students who will interview our staff about the work they do for their grant funded video project.

Tours offer an opportunity for the community to meet the people who protect our coastline day in and day out, and learn about the mechanical, electrical, and biological aspects of protecting our environment! The Gafner Treatment Plant is a living lab and we love hosting community groups, teachers and curious young minds who want to see what they learn in school in action. Please email us at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) to schedule a tour.

### *Learning by Doing - Elementary School Internships*

Students are never too young to learn by doing, that is why we support the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan’s stormwater internships program! A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is a plan for preventing pollutants from entering storm drains and contaminating our waterways and ocean.

Elementary school students who join this program participate in weekly staff meetings, safety training, stormwater sampling and testing, learn about best practices for reducing pollutants, take field trips including to our facility, and learn to present their work to community leaders! It’s an engaging way for students to learn what it takes to protect our waterways and coastline! You can learn more and bring it to your school at this link <http://bit.ly/SWPPPinternship>

### **Data for Graphics**

#### Teacher Grants

- 10 years & running
- 25,000 students impacted
- \$38,000 donated

## Groundwork

### *Updates on Local Wastewater Construction and Infrastructure Projects*

Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) Lining of pipes has proven to be a highly effective way for us to rehabilitate existing pipes without having to dig up the road or property to install brand new pipe. In previous newsletters, we have covered CIPP lining, which helped rehabilitate over 1.28 miles or 6,735 feet of pipe in 2018 alone.

However, CIPP is not the only way to restore an aging pipe. To improve the structural integrity of pipes and minimize interruptions associated with open trench construction, we recently employed another innovative method called spiral lining. Spiral lining or Spiral Wound Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) can be easily inserted into round, misshapen, or deformed pipe. It can also be installed when groundwater is infiltrating into old pipes or while wastewater is flowing because it does not require the heat curing process involved with CIPP lining. CIPP lining requires the pipe to be dry, which sometimes cannot be easily attained. As seen in the photo below, this method is less intrusive, more cost-effective, and can be used in all types of sewer pipes - from concrete to ductile iron to PVC.

#### **Pipe Lining Program Stats:**

- 6,735 feet of sewer pipe lined
- \$1.4M saved versus digging up road and installing brand new pipe

## Field Maintenance

### *Closed Circuit TV Inspection & Line Cleaning*

During most days, our Field Service Technicians are out inspecting our collection systems pipes with a remotely operated video camera. This process helps them find root growth, other obstructions and pipe defects. The pipes are cleaned and obstructions are cleared using a combination hydro-cleaning and vacuum truck. This is a professional grade pressure washer with special nozzles that uses pressurized water to blow through roots and other blockages.

Over the past 6 months, Field Service Technicians have inspected approximately 35 miles of pipeline and cleaned 94 miles of pipeline. This proactive approach to our daily maintenance routine helps to eliminate sewer spills and prioritize future repairs to our collection system.

## System Overview

*<Infographic based on format from the front of previous newsletters providing a graphic and data based overview of the system size, maintenance, and functionality>*

## Financial Report

The Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Audit has been completed and we are pleased to report very positive results. Our finance team assembled a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report or CAFR. This document summarizes our financial outcomes and health for the year. Our independent auditors issued a 'clean opinion' – meaning the CAFR fairly represents the financial condition of the District and no adjustments were needed. For 11 years total and the past 8 consecutive years we received received the *Excellence in Financial Reporting Award* from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO).

### *Financial Highlights by the Numbers for FY 2018*

- FY 2018 Expenses came in under budget by 4%
- Reserves increased by \$1.1 million
- Capital Expenditures of \$5 million
- Net Investment in infrastructure increased by \$1.6 million
- Revenues exceeded Expenses by \$1.5 million
- LWD has one of the lowest sewer service rates in San Diego County

**This was all accomplished *without* an increase in sewer fees!**

## Staff Awards

Our people are the most important part of protecting our coastline! We're fortunate to have a dedicated staff that has chosen to make a lifelong career out of protecting our community.

We'd like to honor 4 staff members who have achieved significant employment milestones this year. Join us in congratulating:

- 5 Years of Service Award - Hugo Gonzalez
- 5 Years of Service Award - Rick Easton
- 10 Years of Service Award – Ian Riffel
- 15 Years of Service Award - Robin Morishita

## District Awards

We are honored to receive ongoing commendations and distinctions for the work LWD does to protect our coastline and run an efficient operation. We'd like to honor our staff and Board of Directors as a whole for helping to achieve:

- 7 Years without a loss time injury accident
- The Platinum Level District of Distinction by the California Special District Leadership Foundation
- California Water Environment Association 2018 Community Engagement and Outreach - Best Use of Social Media award.

## Share your Perspective with the Community!

Thank you for your continued contributions of beautiful photos of Leucadia and Encinitas! We are proud to continue showcasing photos from local photographers of our beautiful community. Submit high resolution photos at [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) or on social media by tagging #LWDPPhoto with images of South Carlsbad, Leucadia, and Encinitas. We publish and give credit for photos in our newsletters and on our social media accounts!