

AGENDA

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. New Business**
 - A. 2020 Spring Newsletter Draft Layout Review. (Pages 2-8)
- 5. Information Items**

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2020
TO: Community Affairs Committee
FROM: Paul J. Bushee, General Manager 
SUBJECT: Spring 2020 Newsletter Draft Layout Review

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft layout for the Winter/Spring 2020 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION:

During January 2020, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) developed a list of story ideas for the Spring 2020 newsletter, which was reviewed and approved by the CAC. During February 2020, the newsletter's draft text was prepared by staff, and was reviewed and approved with minor edits by the CAC.

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

Please note, since the production schedule was pushed back a few weeks, staff is estimating that the newsletter will be mailed to residents during the first week of Spring. Therefore, staff is suggesting to change the name of the Winter newsletter to the Spring newsletter.

Attached please find the draft layout for the Spring 2020 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB



LEUCADIA
WASTEWATER
DISTRICT

LEADERS IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

LWD Leadership

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



The District, in partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD), is now filling our hydro-cleaning and vacuum trucks with recycled water from OMWD's recycled water fill stations. OMWD recently installed five recycled water fill stations in the Village Park neighborhood of Encinitas and in the La Costa neighborhood in Carlsbad. The District is able to use the recycled water to jet clean the sewer main lines. Previously, the hydro-cleaning trucks were filled with recycled water before leaving the District's site, but when out in the field, the trucks must refill with potable water because recycled water was not available. Over the past year, we have been working with OMWD to take advantage of this opportunity to reduce the use of potable water. By doing this, it will help lower the District's cost and save our ratepayers money. This also allows us to save valuable drinking water for OMWD ratepayers and future generations.

What are PFAS and their impacts on the Environment?

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, what are they?

You may have heard recent news stories about a group of chemicals called Polyfluoroalkyl “PAUL-ee-floor-oh-AL-kill.” So **what is it?** However, two chemicals within this group, PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) have been eliminated from U.S. production in 2002 and 2015 respectively. You may have noticed this when purchasing non-stick cookware or carpeting labelled as “PFOA Free.” Since the 1940’s, PFAS have been found in every American household, and in products as diverse as non-stick cookware, stain resistant furniture and carpets, wrinkle free and water repellent clothing, cosmetics, lubricants, paint, pizza boxes, popcorn bags, and many other everyday products.¹



These chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don't break down and they can accumulate over time. Certain PFAS chemicals are no longer manufactured in the United States as a result of phase outs including the PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid) Stewardship Program in which eight major chemical manufacturers agreed to eliminate the use of PFOA and PFOS-related chemicals in their products and as emissions from their facilities. Although PFOA and PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid) are no longer manufactured in the United States, they are still produced internationally and can be imported into the United States in consumer goods.

Although there is some evidence that exposure to PFAS at certain levels can lead to adverse health outcomes in humans, health outcomes are still largely unknown. Several recent legislative and regulatory efforts across the US to address PFAS have focused on limiting levels in drinking water as policy makers act to minimize human interaction with these chemicals. Therefore, potential legislative actions may affect how wastewater and water treatment facilities are operated, which in turn will increase their cost. These costs increases may be passed along to ratepayers in the near future.²

1. <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas#important>

2. <https://casaweb.org/renewable-resources/pfas-1/>

Capital Project Underway this Summer

Leucadia Pump Station Rehabilitation Project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Leucadia Pump Station is the District's second largest pump station. It pumps approximately 3.2 million gallons of wastewater per day for treatment at the Encina Wastewater Treatment Plant. The pump station is located at the District's headquarter site and services the southeastern portion of Carlsbad and the eastern portion of Encinitas. The project will include the installation of five new pumps and a permanent emergency pump in an overflow basin. The new equipment will further bolster the District's ability to respond to emergencies and prevent sewer spills. Additionally, the District will install a super-oxygenation system for odor, safety and corrosion control. That system saturates the wastewater with oxygen to prevent the formation of Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), an odorous, potentially dangerous and highly corrosive gas..

LOCATION OF PROJECT

This project is located at the District's site at 1960 La Costa Avenue in Carlsbad. This project will not impact traffic on surface streets. **However, visitors to the District's Office should exercise caution when entering our facility.**

TIMELINE

Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2020 and continue until Summer 2021.



Learning with Leucadia

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

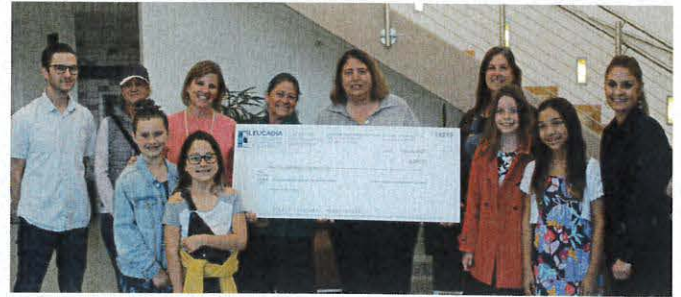
Congratulations to our Teacher Grant Recipients!

During December, we awarded \$4,091 in teacher grants to fund three water/wastewater projects to local schools in our service area. We had some excellent submissions last Fall and are pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Teacher Grant Program!

- June Honsberger from La Costa Canyon High School and her students will be expanding their "Drought Tolerant Garden".
- Nancy Jois from Capri Elementary and her students will create a "Rain Garden."
- Jennifer Smith from El Camino Creek Elementary will expand on the school's "Hydroponic Garden."

See our award winning video of our recent grant winners here! <http://bit.ly/LWDGrantWinners>

These projects will help students learn about the importance of water conservation, where it comes from and how to efficiently use it in everyday life.



Schedule a Tour!

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, which recycles wastewater, 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.

Email us at info@lwwd.org to schedule a tour.

Financial Highlights

The Fiscal Year 2019 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.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS FOR FY 2019

FY 2019 expenses came in **under budget** by

3%

Infrastructure Improvements

\$6M

Operating Expenses

\$7M

LWD currently has the **lowest sewer service** rate in San Diego County

Proposed Rate Increase

In June 2018, the District's Board of Directors approved an update to the District's long-range Wastewater Financial Plan. This Plan, along 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 starting in July 2020.

The District operates on a fiscal year instead of a calendar year. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. The District is proposing rate increases for the next three fiscal years. The District has not had an increase for the past three years. These rate increases will pay for increasing operating, maintenance, and treatment costs and projected capital expenditure costs of \$51 million over the next three 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 \$50.86 per month or \$610.32 per year per EDU based on a 2020 wastewater user charge survey. The District's current rate is \$28.64 per month or \$343.68 per year and is **currently the lowest rate in San Diego County**.

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, starting at 5:00 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 on July 1st of each year in accordance with the following chart.

FISCAL YEAR	ANNUAL RATE	MONTHLY RATE
2020 (Current)	\$343.68	\$28.64
2021	\$378.04	\$31.50
2022	\$415.84	\$34.65
2023	\$457.42	\$38.12

How A Winning Team Keeps the Oceans Clean

Leucadia Wastewater District & Encina Wastewater Authority are an Award-Winning Team

While you know that LWD maintains and operates the sewer system that connects to your sewer lateral, do you know where all the wastewater goes? From your lateral, wastewater travels through a series of pipes and pump stations throughout Encinitas and Carlsbad, and eventually reaches the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility, which is operated by the Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA). You may have seen it to the west of the I-5, south of Palomar Airport Road. This facility treats waste from nearly 380,000 residents of North County and is jointly owned by the cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Vista, and the agencies of LWD, Vallecitos Water District, and the Buena Sanitation District. EWA is run by a team that has received multiple plant wide awards over the past few years, such as, California Water Environment Association Plant of Year Award and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partner award.

You can watch an overview video about EWA here: <http://bit.ly/EWAOverview>

District's Lateral Grant Program Assists Another Homeowner

Homeowner Receives \$3,000 Grant to Help Repair Sewer Lateral

In December 2019, District staff performed their routine high-pressure hydro-cleaning of the public sewer system and discovered a large amount of gravel in a sewer line. The District followed up with a televised camera inspection and identified a sewer lateral that had a major buildup of gravel. District staff worried the gravel buildup had the potential to create a sewer lateral blockage and result in a sewer backup into the house. The District immediately notified homeowner Jeremy Neill of the discovery. Mr. Neill decided to further investigate the situation and hired a plumbing company to perform a camera inspection in his sewer lateral. The inspection revealed two major voids that allowed the gravel to enter his sewer lateral. At this time, the District provided Mr. Neill information on the Lateral Grant Program. The financial assistance provided by the Lateral Grant Program helped Mr. Neill make the decision to have the necessary repairs completed and resolve the issue. The District was able to approve a maximum lateral grant of \$3,000 to help offset some of the lateral repair costs. Mr. Neill was very appreciative of the financial assistance, especially with the Holiday season in full swing. Mr. Neill stated that he and his family were "fortunate that District staff cared enough to investigate the problem before it became an even bigger one."

Had District staff not located the gravel and subsequently informed Mr. Neill, not only was there a potential for a backup into his home but could also have caused damage to LWD infrastructure. In turn, damaged sewer lines would then potentially cause a spill and further endanger the environment as well as human and animal life.

Since July 2019, we are pleased to report that the District has funded approximately \$50,000 in lateral grants to 17 homeowners, like Mr. Neill, to help with their sewer lateral repairs. The District will pay half the cost of lateral repairs up to \$3,000 on approved projects.



Homeowner Jeremy Neill receives his lateral grant check from Field Services Specialist Ian Riffel

Learn More About the District Lateral Grant Program

Please visit the District website at bit.ly/latgrant or call us at (760) 753-0155.

The lateral grant must be pre-approved, so please contact us before you begin repair work on your sewer lateral. **We are here to help!**

District Awards & Achievements



We are honored to receive ongoing commendations and distinctions for the work the District does to protect our coastline and run an efficient operation.

2019 CWEA San Diego Section Collection System of the Year Award

This award recognizes the District's outstanding maintenance programs, regulatory compliance and safety and training procedures.

2019 CWEA San Diego Section Video Film Festival Award for Community Engagement & Outreach—Best use of Social Media

This award recognizes achievements in promoting awareness and understanding of water quality issues through social media campaigns.

Investment Policy Certification

The California Municipal Treasurers Association (CMTA) recently awarded the district this certification, which certifies that LWD's investment policy complies with current California State statutes governing the investment practices of local government.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

On November 30, 2019, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the District this certification for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.



Hugo Gonzalez

2019 Person of the Year
CWEA San Diego Section
Collections System



Ryan Rodriguez

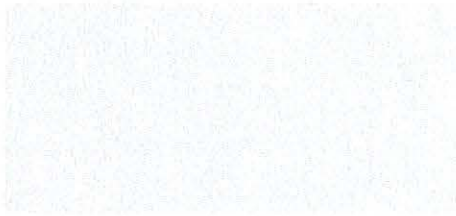
5 Years of Service Award



1960 La Costa Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Downstream

Semi-Annual Newsletter — Spring 2020



We hope you enjoyed our semi-annual newsletter! Please follow us on our Facebook page [@LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict) for construction and traffic updates and other local wastewater information, or email us at info@lwwd.org

To subscribe and receive this newsletter digitally, please go to bit.ly/LWWDSubscribe



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

or on social media by [tagging #LWDPhoto](#) with images of South Carlsbad, Leucadia, and Encinitas. We publish and give credit for photos in our newsletters and on our social media accounts!



Leucadia Wastewater District Newsletter

Leaders in Environmental Protection, keeping our lagoons, beaches, and oceans clean and safe

Visit our website or Facebook page for
Construction Updates that might affect traffic.
www.lwwd.org [@LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/LeucadiaWastewaterDistrict)