

**LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**  
 Minutes of a Community Affairs Committee Meeting  
 December 16, 2024

---

A meeting of the Community Affairs Committee (CAC) of the Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD) was held Monday, December 16, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Saldana called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Saldana and Brown

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Paul Bushee, Director of Finance and Administration Ryan Green, Administrative Services Supervisor Trisha Hill, Executive Assistant Tianne Baity, and Neal Bloom of Rising Tide Partners (RTP)

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. New Business**

Review of Teacher Grant Applications.

ADS Hill introduced the item and provided background information on the Teacher Grant Program noting the District was happy to have received six applications by the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

ADS Hill noted that the total cost for the submitted grants is \$8,900, which is over the FY25 budget amount of \$6,000. ADS Hill noted these three considerations when evaluating the applications:

1. The Encinitas Unified School District (EUSD) Farm Lab project is outside the District's boundary, but their project will benefit students from eight schools within the District. In the past, EUSD has received a grant due to their significant impact on District students. Staff recommends the Farm Lab grant request be accepted.
2. Two applications are from La Costa Heights Elementary. One of the applications (Ms. Caldararo's) includes a \$600 request for bus transportation to LWD for a field trip. Staff recommends LWD offer a demonstration at La Costa Heights in lieu of the bus funding.
3. The La Costa Canyon High School application includes \$400 for non-consumable items (shovels and gloves) that the District has funded in previous years. Staff recommends excluding the non-consumable items from the funding of this grant.

ADS Hill stated staff recommends approving all six grants due to the high outreach value and impact on over 1,500 students in the District's service area. This number does not account for additional participants, such as teachers, volunteers, and parents, who contribute to or

benefit from these projects. She stated that the current year's budget can absorb the additional \$2,900.

Director Brown asked if the projects should be focused more on wastewater than water. GM Bushee stated that one of the main goals of the Teacher Grant Program is to raise awareness of the District. He noted that the Teacher Grant Program is probably more impactful and reaches more people than the newsletter.

Chairperson Saldana stated that perhaps the District should fund more to the projects that impact more students. Director Brown stated that maybe LWD should reassess the grant amounts to be within the designated budget of the program.

Following a lengthy discussion, the CAC and staff agreed to fund the Teacher Grant Program with a total amount of \$8,800. The grant amounts per teacher/school are listed below.

- \$2,000 to Carrie Herndon with EUSD Farm Lab;
- \$2,000 to Nancy Jois with Capri Elementary;
- \$1,400 to Jessica Caldararo with La Costa Heights Elementary;
- \$900 to Jacquie Street with La Costa Heights Elementary;
- \$900 to Katie Oberman with El Camino Creek Elementary; and
- \$1,600 to June Honsberger with La Costa Canyon High School

The CAC and staff's recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval at its January 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

The CAC and staff also agreed to reassess the Teacher Grant Program next year and redefine and update the grant application to be more wastewater oriented.

## 5. **Information Items**

### A. Water Career Day Debrief

ADS Hill provided a debrief of the Water Career Day which took place on October 10<sup>th</sup> at San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) in partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD) and LWD. She also presented a video to the CAC, created by RTP, which showcased Water Career Day.

The CAC enjoyed the video and Chairperson Saldana asked that the video be presented to the full Board at the January Board meeting. Staff stated they would do so.

### B. Photo Contest Update

Mr. Bloom of RTP provided an update on the LWD Photo Contest. He stated that LWD will have a photo contest for schools in the District and it will be divided into elementary school, middle school, and high school submissions. He noted that the winning photos will be used on the District's social media pages and winners will receive framed copies of their submitted photos. Mr. Bloom stated that the photo contest announcement will be made to schools in January with a due date of April 2025.

## 6. **Directors' Comments**

Director Brown thanked staff for bringing him up to speed on the CAC.

## 7. **General Manager's Comments**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

Chairperson Saldana adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.



---

Paul J. Bushee  
Secretary/General Manager  
(Seal)