

**AGENDA**


**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING  
LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.  
1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009

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1. **Call to Order**  
Teleconference with Vice President Brown at the following location:  
Moulton Nigel Water District  
26161 Gordon Road  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Spring 2025 Newsletter Draft Text Review.** (Pages 2-8)
5. **Information Items**  
None.
6. **Directors' Comments**
7. **General Manager's Comments**
8. **Adjournment**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 13, 2025  
**TO:** Community Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Paul J. Bushee, General Manager   
**SUBJECT:** Spring 2025 Newsletter Draft Text Review

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Community Affairs Committee (CAC):

1. Review the draft text for the Spring 2025 Newsletter; and
2. Discuss and provide direction, as appropriate.

**DISCUSSION:**

On January 28th, staff and Rising Tide Partners (RTP) presented a list of story ideas for the spring 2025 newsletter to the CAC for comments. Staff and RTP have completed the draft newsletter text. Staff will present the proposed newsletter text at the CAC meeting.

Attached please find the draft text for the spring 2025 newsletter for your review. Staff requests that the committee review the proposed newsletter text and provide comments as appropriate.

Attachment

th:PJB

## LWD's Spring 2025 Newsletter Articles

### **Bringing Wastewater Education to Life: Field Service Technicians Connect with Local Schools**

At Leucadia Wastewater District, we believe that hands-on learning is one of the best ways to engage the next generation in water conservation and wastewater management. That's why, for the second year in a row, our Field Service Technician team has been visiting local schools to provide interactive, bilingual demonstrations—bringing real-world wastewater science straight to the classroom.

In the 2024/2025 school year, our team visited multiple schools, providing over 200 students with a firsthand look at the essential role wastewater services play in protecting public health and the environment with live demonstrations in both English and Spanish. From learning how wastewater flows through underground pipelines to understanding the impact of non-flushable items on the system, students experienced wastewater management in a way that was both fun and educational.

Schools have embraced this initiative, integrating our demonstrations into annual events like Water Day at Capri Elementary and specialized science programming at other campuses. This year, the program expanded further, with teachers requesting demonstrations for entire grade levels after seeing the excitement and engagement of the students during our previous visits.

By bringing wastewater education **directly to the classroom**, LWD is ensuring that students not only learn about water conservation but also understand how their daily actions can protect our local water resources. Check out this video, showing one of demonstrations to a local school: (insert bitly)

If you're an educator interested in scheduling a demonstration for your school or participating in LWD's **Teacher Grant Program**, visit our website at [Teacher Grant Program | Leucadia Wastewater District](#) to learn more.

### **Serving Our Customers by Investing in a Sustainable Future While Keeping Rates Affordable**

We work hard to keep your sewer rates fair while making sure our community has a reliable and environmentally friendly wastewater system. Our team maintains over 200 miles of sewer pipes and 10 pump stations, regularly inspecting, cleaning, and upgrading infrastructure to prevent costly problems. Thanks to these efforts, the Leucadia Wastewater District has gone

several years without a single sewer spill—an achievement that protects our beaches, lagoons, and local environment.

To keep everything running smoothly, we invest in major infrastructure projects, such as pipeline repairs and pump station upgrades, while also using new technology to extend the life of our sewer system. For example, instead of completely replacing old pipes, we often use a cost-effective method called cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, which strengthens pipes from the inside without the need for disruptive digging. By making smart upgrades now, we avoid costly emergency repairs later and ensure our wastewater system remains strong for years to come.

LWD also takes a responsible approach to financial planning, using a 20-year financial plan to anticipate costs and avoid sudden rate hikes. This long-term strategy helps us balance affordability with necessary improvements, so residents can count on reliable service without unexpected increases. With careful budgeting, proactive maintenance, and a focus on sustainability, we continue to provide high-quality wastewater services while keeping rates among the lowest in San Diego County.

### **Congratulations to this Year’s Teacher Grant Recipients!**

After reviewing many outstanding applications this past fall, we are excited to announce the 2024/2025 grant recipients and their inspiring projects:

- Katie Oberman from El Camino Creek Elementary for the "Native Plant Labyrinth" project
- June Honsberger from La Costa Canyon High School for the "Pollinators and Plant Species in Fall and Spring" project
- Nancy Jois from Capri Elementary for the "We Can Help Ocean Animals" project
- Carrie Hendon from Encinitas Union School District Farm lab for the “Water Wise: Experimenting with Groundwater Simulator” project
- Jessica Caldararo from La Costa Heights Elementary for the “Kinder-Garden for a Better Earth” project
- Jacquiet Street from La Costa Heights Elementary for the “Young Water Protectors - Ocean Water Pollution Prevention” project

These projects will reach over 1,500 students, engaging them with interactive projects in water conservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainability efforts. Congratulations to all the educators and students involved!

### **Did You Know?**

1. **A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day!** A silent leak might be driving up your water bill. Try adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank—if the color seeps into the bowl without flushing, it’s time for a fix!

2. The Leucadia Wastewater District recycles **90 million gallons of wastewater per year**, helping supply **recycled water** for irrigation at places like the Omni La Costa Golf Course. By using recycled water instead of drinking water, we **save enough potable water to supply over 1,500 homes for a full year**—preserving this valuable resource for essential uses like drinking and cooking!

## **Congratulations to the Photo Contest Winners!**

We are thrilled to announce the winners of our inaugural student photo contest, “Capturing the Flow: Where Does It Go?” This contest invited young photographers from elementary, middle, and high schools within our service area to explore and visually narrate the journey of water in our community.

After careful deliberation, following outstanding entries were selected:

**Elementary School Winner:** *Student Name, School Name, Photo Title, and Brief description of the photo and its significance.*

**Middle School Winner:** *Student Name, School Name, Photo Title, and Brief description of the photo and its significance.*

**High School Winner:** *Student Name, School Name, Photo Title and Brief description of the photo and its significance.*

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners and express our gratitude to all participants for their creative contributions. Your unique perspectives help highlight the importance of water in our daily lives and the vital role of wastewater management in preserving our environment.

Stay tuned for future contests and opportunities to engage with us as we continue to promote environmental awareness and community involvement.

## **Replacing Critical Infrastructure Before It Fails**

### **San Marcos Creek Crossing Diversion Project Successfully Completed**

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the San Marcos Creek Crossing Diversion Project, an essential infrastructure improvement designed to protect local waterways and ensure long-term wastewater system reliability.

This critical project involved rerouting wastewater flow from approximately 400 residences that were previously connected to a compromised pipeline crossing the San Marcos Creek. By redirecting flows to a reinforced sewer pipeline further east, we eliminated the risk of a sewer spill into the creek, safeguarding both the environment and public health.

We appreciate the patience and support of our community as we worked to complete this important project. Thank you for helping us keep our waterways clean and safe!

### **Rancho Verde Pump Station Rehabilitation Project Begins in Spring 2025**

We are set to begin construction on the Rancho Verde Pump Station. Built 29 years ago, the pump station will be retrofitted with new electrical and mechanical components, and other general site improvements. These upgrades will help prevent system failures and ensure continued top-quality service for the community.

Residents may notice increased activity in the area for about 4 months during construction, and rest assured that we are working hard to minimize disruptions. This project is part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a resilient and efficient wastewater system. For updates, visit our [website](#) or follow us on social media.

### **Diana Pump Station Upgrade: Enhancing Reliability for Leucadia Residents**

This project will enhance the reliability and emergency response capabilities of the pump station which serves the Leucadia community. The upcoming upgrade includes adding an onsite emergency generator to ensure continued operation during power outages and relocating electrical equipment to a newly acquired easement on Diana Street. Construction is expected to begin in 2026. Stay tuned for updates as this project moves forward!

### **Batiquitos Pump Station Emergency Basin Project Successfully Completed!**

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the Batiquitos Pump Station Emergency Basin Project. The emergency basin is a critical piece of infrastructure that serves as temporary wastewater storage for excess flows during high wet weather flows or emergency situations. The emergency basin work included concrete restoration on the walls and ceiling and then lining the concrete with an epoxy.

Upgrading this component of the district's largest pump station, which is next to the Batiquitos lagoon and pumps about 5 million gallons of wastewater per day, helps make sure we are ready during the largest storm events.

### **Leucadia Wastewater District Remembers Longtime Board Member Judy Hanson**

With great sadness, we share the passing of longtime Board member and community volunteer Judy Hanson. As a dedicated public servant, Judy served on the Leucadia Wastewater District Board of Directors for an extraordinary 40 years, from 1983 until September 6, 2023. She played a vital role on numerous committees and held multiple terms as Board President and Vice President.

Beyond the District, Judy was an advocate for regional collaboration, serving on the California Sanitation Risk Management Authority and Encina Wastewater Authority Boards. Her

commitment to public service extended to volunteering at Scripps Memorial Hospital in Encinitas and serving as Treasurer of the Friends of the Encinitas Library.

Judy's career began as one of Leucadia Wastewater District's earliest employees, later becoming Finance Supervisor at the San Dieguito Water District/City of Encinitas. She was widely recognized for her contributions, earning accolades such as the Al Wrigley Memorial Award and the Golden Shovel Award from the California Water Environment Association.

### **Honoring Director Donald F. Omsted for His Years of Dedicated Service**

The Leucadia Wastewater District extends its deepest appreciation to Director Donald F. Omsted, who has faithfully served the District and our community for a total of 22 years.

Director Omsted first joined our Board of Directors in 1982, serving a four-year term, and rejoined in 2006. Throughout his tenure he supported key infrastructure improvements, including modernizing the District's headquarters, upgrading our two largest pump stations, and enhancing major pipelines and forcemains. His efforts have helped us maintain our reputation as a leader in environmental protection and operational excellence.

Director Omsted's legacy at the District is marked not only by his commitment to infrastructure and environmental stewardship, but also by his unwavering focus on fiscal responsibility. Under his leadership, the District has consistently maintained one of the lowest wastewater service rates in San Diego County while continuing to provide high-quality service to its customers.

We sincerely thank Director Omsted for his dedication, leadership, and years of service to the District and our community. His impact will be felt for generations to come, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

### **Standout Achievements: Staff Awards, Professional Certs, District Awards**

#### **Field Services Technician Ryan Rodriguez - 10 Years of Service Award**

We are honored to announce that the Leucadia Wastewater District has received two prestigious awards from the **San Diego Section of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA)**:

- **Collection System of the Year:** This award recognizes the District's excellence in managing and maintaining our wastewater collection system, ensuring reliable and efficient service to our community.
- **Community Engagement and Outreach Project of the Year:** This accolade celebrates our innovative efforts in connecting with the community, particularly through our bilingual educational programs and in-person demonstrations led by our Field Service Technicians.

These achievements reflect our unwavering commitment to operational excellence and proactive community involvement. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated staff and the supportive community we serve.

Our staff has maintained a spotless safety record, going **three consecutive years** without a vehicle accident. With our field team of 11 professionals operating 8 vehicles and logging over 10,000 hours on the road each year, this milestone reflects our dedication to protecting staff and the community, and it also helps keep operational costs and rates low for our customers.

We are proud to announce another major operational milestone—**five consecutive years without a single sewer spill**. This achievement underscores our unwavering commitment to system reliability, proactive maintenance, and environmental protection.

Keeping our system spill-free not only protects local waterways and public health but also helps keep operational costs and customer rates low. **We thank our hardworking team for their vigilance and dedication to this outstanding accomplishment!**

### **Calling for More Local Photographers!**

Submit your photos by emailing [info@lwwd.org](mailto:info@lwwd.org) or by sharing them on Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #DISTRICTPhoto.

Selected images may be featured in our newsletters, website, social media, and official District materials. Let's celebrate the beauty of our community together—send in your best shots today!