

Discovery of unknown “chalk-like” substance found in collection system



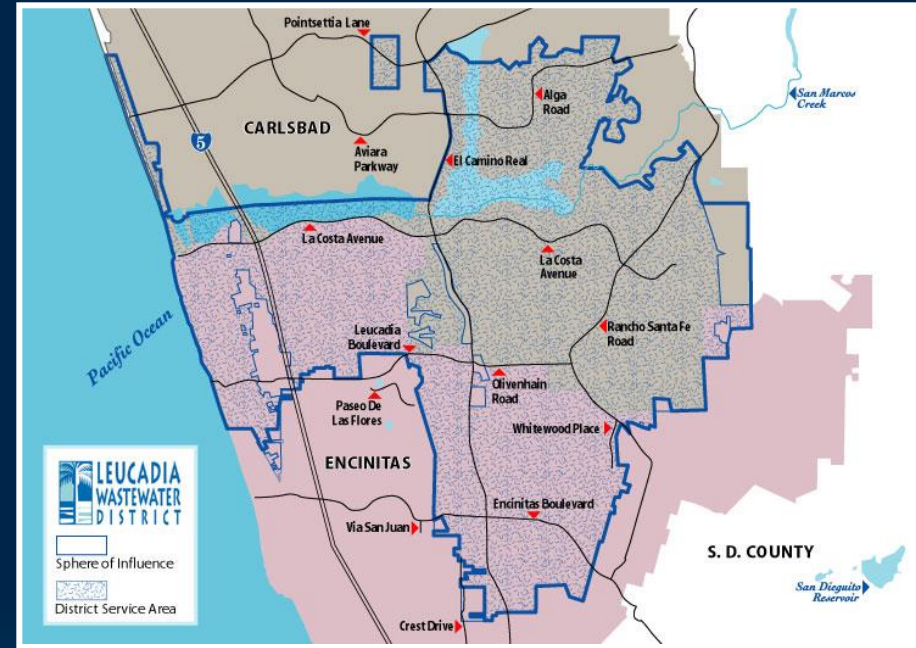
LWD – Who Are We?

- Established in 1959
- Public Agency
- Special District
- 5 Member Board
 - Publicly Elected
 - At Large
- 18 Member Staff



LWD – What Do We Do?

- Wastewater Services to Over 60,000 Residents
- Service Area 16 Square Miles
 - Southern Half of Carlsbad
 - Northern Half of Encinitas
- Transport wastewater from homes and safely treat it
- Provide Recycled Water to the La Costa Golf Course



When was it first discovered?

- Date first observed:
 - June 1 2015 on Borla Place off Cadencia Street.



How was it found?

- Hydro-Cleaning PVC section on Borla Place
- Vactor nozzle stuck on its return
- Multiple pieces of “unknown” material protruding into manhole
- Removed and collected “unknown” substance
 - blue in color
 - smelled like cement

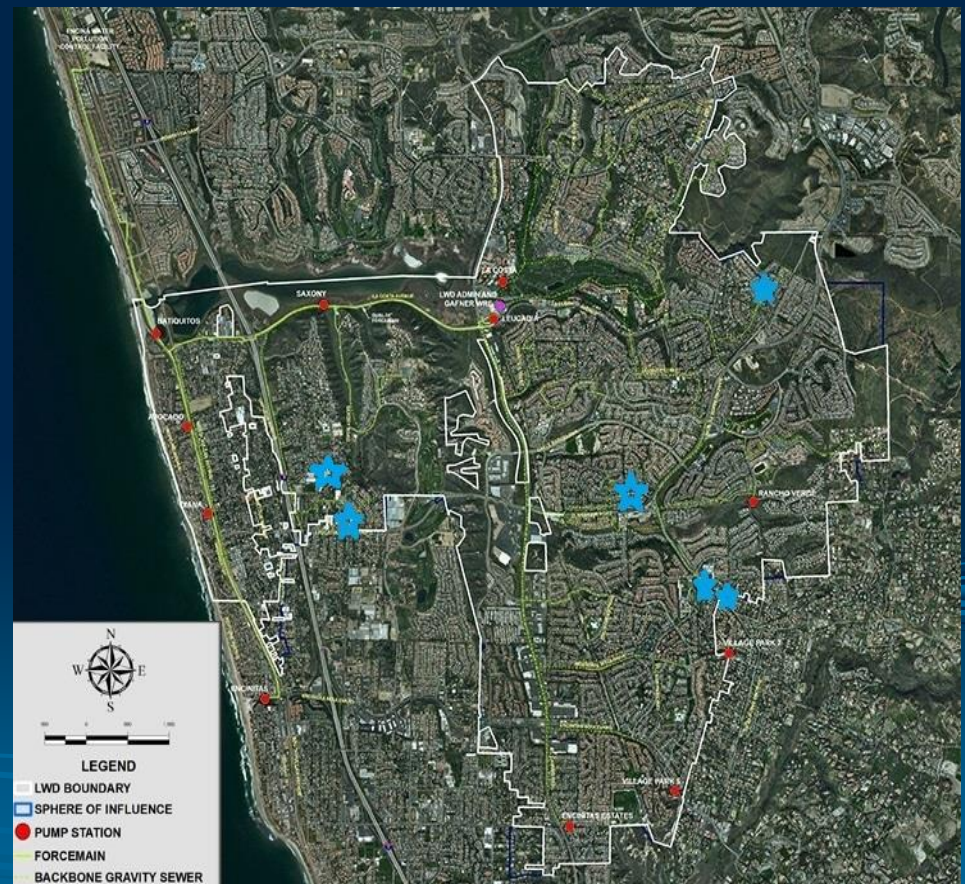
How was it found? (continued)

- Noticed contractor crew working on backyard hardscape at 7314 Borla Place
- Scope of work included a pool
- Questioned the contractor and informed him what was found
- Explained the importance of not disposing of any material into the collection system

Other instances since initial discovery

➤ Total of five other instances since the initial discovery.

- Rancho Santa Fe (2)
- Saxony Road
- Sombrosa St
- Dolphin Circle



Rancho Santa Fe



Rancho Santa Fe and 14th St.



Saxony Road



Sombrosa Street



Dolphin Circle



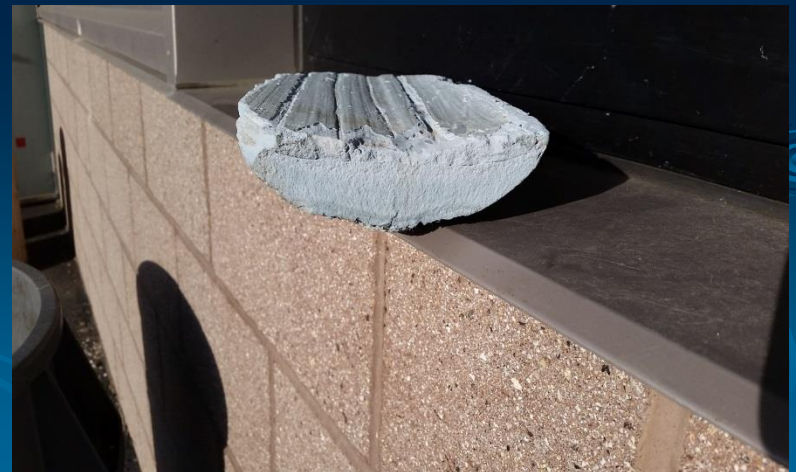
Samples of substance



Samples (continued)



Samples (continued)



Samples (continued)



What actions have been taken to identify the substance?

- Reached out to SCAP for agencies with similar situations
- Lab test to:
 - EWA
 - Test American Lab
- Inquiries were also made to local pool contractors and pool supply companies.

Results of investigation

➤ SCAP survey results:

“I believe this is pool plaster as we spent several days cleaning this from a portion of our system last year. It looks very similar and may be worth having a contractor CCTV with a lateral launch camera from the mainline. This caused us an SSO.”

Dennis Maxwell, Wastewater Supervisor

“Swimming pool plaster...We see this all too often and can sometimes identify the residence where the plastering was performed from google satellite view.”

Robert Swartz

Senior Civil Engineer, Field Operations

County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works

Results of investigation (continued)

- Lab results
 - Gives chemical composition of substance, but could not specifically identify product
- Leslie Spa and Plumbing Supply
 - Pool repair kits (possible, but unlikely)
- Mission Pools
 - Newer technology of pool finishing (more likely)
- Pool finishing process
 - Interior wall of pool is smoothed by combining a wax/caulk-like substance with water which is then “vacuumed” up in the finalizing process

Possible measures to mitigate?

- Customer outreach:
 - Downstream newsletter article
 - Website notification
- Digs alerts for pools:
 - Contact customer/contractor
- Field Service crews encounter blue substance, have CCTV crew investigate ASAP.





QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION

