

# INSIDE ORO LOMA



## You Can Help Protect San Francisco Bay

When it comes to what we flush, it's easy to think, "Out of sight, out of mind." But what we flush can have a big impact on the health of San Francisco Bay.

Wastewater from homes and businesses in the District flows through almost 300 miles of sewer pipes to the wastewater treatment plant on Grant Avenue. The plant does an excellent job of returning clean water to the Bay. Clogs, however, can cause raw sewage to overflow onto the street.

Sewer overflows pose a serious threat to San Francisco Bay. When a sewer overflows, untreated wastewater can flow into creeks and storm drains and then into the Bay. Backups are usually caused by clogs in the sewer lines. Cleaning and disinfection wipes, moist towelettes, personal hygiene wipes, baby wipes, even items labeled "disposable" or "flushable," should never be flushed down the toilet. Unlike toilet tissue, "disposable" wipes don't disintegrate in water. They accumulate in sewer mains, where they

lodge against pipe joints, backing up the wastewater. Dental floss flushed down the toilet can make the problem even worse. Dental floss is strong and durable. It can make minor clogs within pipes worse by "binding" materials together.

These items can also cause plumbing backups in the home. Clogged plumbing in a home can cause an unsafe mess that is difficult and expensive to clean up.

Help prevent sewer backups by only flushing the three "P"s—Pee, Poo, toilet Paper.

### Some things that belong in the trash, not in the toilet:

Makeup pads; Cleaning and baby wipes (even "flushable" ones); Hair; Bandages; Latex products; Dental floss; Diapers; Cotton swabs; Hygiene products.

## WASTEWATER SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

*Serving Our  
Community,  
Protecting Our  
Environment*

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# Watch for the Cones

## Please drive carefully

Sewer mains are in the street. That is also where there are cars and pedestrians. Oro Loma crews do many things to ensure their work does not cause undue delays for customers. They:

- Perform scheduled sewer system maintenance work in school areas during summer break or school holidays;
- Schedule routine work to stay off major routes during commute hours;
- Work pre-dawn to stay out of major intersections;
- Complete annual driver awareness/defensive driving;
- Attend annual training provided by California Highway Patrol.

You can help Oro Loma crews do their job safely. Please watch for the orange cones and drive carefully. Thank you.



## Oro Loma Open House May 11, 2019

### A great day of fun and education

On May 11, 2019, over 700 visitors to the Oro Loma Open House toured the treatment plant, participated in hands-on activities, and enjoyed complimentary eats and treats. In addition, 185 students were honored for their entries in the Oro Loma 2019 Schools Outreach Project. For more Open House photos, go to [oroloma.org](http://oroloma.org).





# Two Free Bulky Pickups per Year

**Oro Loma residential customers are entitled to two bulky pickups per calendar year at no additional cost.**

Pickups are arranged by appointment. Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 at least two weeks in advance to schedule your pickup. Allow extra time during the holidays.

## All these items may be included:

- Large residential appliances;
- Automobile tires;
- Household furniture and mattresses;
- Trimmings and wood;
- Trash and small appliances (up to 2 cu. yds.).

## None of these items are allowed:

- Any single item over 75 pounds;
- Rocks, dirt, concrete, construction debris;
- Hazardous waste (stopwaste.org for more information).

For restrictions and setout information, visit [oroloma.org](http://oroloma.org).

Before throwing out useful items, consider donating them or holding a garage sale.



## Reminder

### Mandatory Commercial Organic Waste Recycling is now in effect.

As of January 1, 2019, businesses in California that generate four cubic yards or more of solid waste per week must arrange for organic waste recycling services for the following: food, food-soiled paper, and yard debris. Visit [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics) for more information on the law (AB 1826).

Alameda County Waste Management Authority requires all businesses that generate a significant amount of organic waste, regardless of total solid waste generated per week, to arrange for organics collection service. Visit [www.recyclingrulesac.org/](http://www.recyclingrulesac.org/) for more information about the mandate.

For help in setting up an organic waste recycling program, email [info@oroloma.org](mailto:info@oroloma.org).



## Wastewater Collection Corner

### Know Your Utilities

Water running down your street may be coming from a water main valve, a clogged storm drain, or from a sewer manhole. If you are unsure, immediately call Oro Loma at (510) 276-4700. The District has a crew on hand 24/7 to handle emergencies.





Oro Loma Sanitary District  
2655 Grant Avenue  
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

**Oro Loma Sanitary District Office 24/7 Emergency Response (510) 276-4700**

**Waste Management (510) 613-8710**

**Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste (800) 606-6606**

**BOARD MEETINGS—OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**First and third Tuesdays of every month**

**Visit [OroLoma.org](http://OroLoma.org) for meeting dates and times.**

## *What's New*

### **Sewer Service Charges**

An increase to the Oro Loma Sanitary District Sewer Service Charges went into effect July 1, 2019. The increase is part of a five-year plan approved by the Board on May 17, 2016. The 2019 sewer service charge for single-family residential customers is now \$275/year (from \$256/year). The new rate remains the lowest in Alameda County.

### **Solid Waste Rates**

The Board adopted new solid waste rates on August 20, 2019, following a public hearing. The effective date for the new rates is September 1, 2019. The District's agreement with Waste Management provides for annual solid waste rate adjustments for customers, based on a combination factor that includes cost of living and benefit adjustments tied to Waste Management's labor contracts. For 2019-2020, the contractual rate increase was 3.5%. The rate for a San Lorenzo single-family residential customer with a 35-gal trash cart is \$18.79/month (from \$18.15/month). The rates for residential recycling and green waste services remain unchanged at \$4.60/month.

## *New Employees*



### **Mark D'Ambra**

Mark was hired on November 12, 2018 as a Collection System Worker. He has 12 years of public works/collections experience, multiple professional certifications, and has completed coursework in management and supervision.



### **Negin Tootian**

Negin's first day at Oro Loma was February 11, 2019 as a Plant Operator II. This position includes troubleshooting, process control, lab tests, preventive maintenance, and overseeing the full treatment of sanitary system flows.



### **Stephanie Ortiz**

Stephanie was hired as the District's Safety & Special Programs Administrator on March 11, 2019. She is looking forward to utilizing her vast experience in environmental health and safety in her new position at Oro Loma.



### **Carlos Flores-Martinez**

Carlos is one of the District's newest Plant Operator II. He has a BS in Biochemistry with a minor in Mathematics and is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Engineering and Construction Management.

