Spotlight on Excellence

NEW EMPLOYEES

Patricia Bocsan, Office Assistant

Kris had been working as a contractor with the District since 2008. On June 6, 2013, he joined Oro Loma as a Field Engineer. An amazing staff, the opportunity to work on exciting projects, the chance to gain skills under professional engineers such as Bill Halsted and Jimmy Dang, and the potential to advance his career make Kris thrilled with his new job. He hopes to continue making Oro Loma the best wastewater treatment plant in the Bay Area.

Samuel Bobbitt, Collection System Worker

Sam started with Oro Loma on April 1, 2013 as a Collection System Worker. Sam had worked for some time in the wastewater collection field, and when an opportunity arose to work for the District, he immediately applied. Sam was particularly drawn to the award-winning reputation of Oro Loma’s wastewater Collection Department. He says this job is the best he’s ever had; he loves it.

Brian Charvet, Plant Operator II

Brian joined Oro Loma as a temporary maintenance worker in March 2013, after completing a year-long internship with the District. In August of this year, he was hired as a full-time Operator. As an Operator, Brian monitors the plant’s wastewater treatment process to ensure its peak performance. The District’s medium size allows him to get involved with a variety of tasks and people, while still allowing him to concentrate on specific jobs as needed.

PROMOTIONS

Arlene began her career with Oro Loma as a Junior Accountant in 1985 and was promoted to Accountant in 2003. She gained a wealth of knowledge on government finance from her mentor Anna Wilewski-Turon (former Finance Manager). Arlene has been a part of the District’s continuous achievement of Government Finance Officers Association’s Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, and was instrumental in the successful conversion of the District’s accounting system earlier this year. Her greatest joy in working at Oro Loma comes from the culture of consistency and teamwork within the organization, where everyone brings valuable expertise for the common goal of serving the community. With Anna’s retirement in May 2013, Arlene was promoted to the Finance Manager position and truly valued the opportunity. In her spare time, Arlene enjoys photography, traveling, and activities with her husband Chris and children Jonathan and Praise.

Pearl Gonzalez, Accountant

In 2012, Pearl joined Oro Loma as an Office Assistant. Only one year later, she was promoted to the position of Accountant. Pearl credits Sally Green, the District Secretary, with teaching her office operations, and Arlene Wong, the District’s new Finance Manager, with training her on the financial requirements of Oro Loma. In her new position, Pearl hopes to find ways to simplify and improve current administrative procedures. Pearl has a nine-month-old baby girl (also named Pearl) and two sons, Hector and Alexis.

Inside

• Earth Day 2013 Poster Contest Awards Ceremony
• Earth Day 2014 Poster Contest
• Mandatory Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling
• Helpful Reminders
• Sewer Service Charges 2013-2014
• Accountability Report
• Spotlight on Excellence

Update on Construction of Two New Digesters

In April of this year, the District started the construction of two new 1-million gallon anaerobic digesters. Construction is on schedule and is approximately 35% complete. The anticipated completion date is October 2014.

Available reserves will supply the entire funding for the project. The District’s reserve policy is structured to provide funding for the renewal of the plant’s infrastructure. This includes the existing digester system, dating to 1948, which is nearing the end of its reliable life. The digesters constructed today are expected to deliver 75 years of service.

The construction of the new digesters will ensure that the system has capacity to accommodate biological upsets, maintenance shutdowns, and/or a major earthquake. Digesters are used to stabilize solids that are separated from the treated effluent. This reduces pathogens and odors, and makes the resulting product attractive for a variety of uses. Methane, which is produced during the digestion process, is captured and used by two engines to produce electricity. Along with the power from the District’s solar array, this is enough to make the plant electrically self-sufficient.

The new digesters will also provide flexibility in plant operations when an existing digester needs to be maintained. The new digesters will incorporate fixed concrete covers, pumped mixing and withdrawal, and allow for grease receiving.

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Patricia Bocsan, Kristopher Decker, Samuel Bobbitt

Kristopher Decker, Field Engineer

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Arlene Wong, Finance Manager

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