



# ORO LOMA NEWS

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[www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org)

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## Inside

- How to Protect Your Home from Raw Sewage
- Recycling Schedules
- Helpful Reminders
- Oro Loma 2013-2014 calendar
- 2014 Poster Contest
- Tips for Trouble-Free Plumbing
- Don't Flush So-Called "Flushable" Wipes!
- New Food Scrap Recycling Website
- New Benchmarking Service from StopWaste

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Oro Loma Wins SHELL Award for Excellent Risk Management Practices

Oro Loma Sanitary District was awarded the 2013 California Sanitation Risk Management Authority's Safety, Health, Environmental, Liability, and Loss (SHELL) Award in August 2013. The award recognizes the top agency among the 43 water/wastewater agencies participating in the self insurance cooperative—recognizing excellence in risk management categories that include safety, employee health, environmental practices, employment practices, and general liability.

The primary goal of the award is to encourage proactive risk control, as opposed to reactive methods. Historically, risk control involved studying losses and how to prevent them. Best practices today involve the collection and assessment of forward-looking indicators. Examples of such indicators include surveys of employee attitudes toward safety, anonymous inquiries to determine if employees know how to do their jobs safely, encouraging the reporting of mistakes, and conducting regular audits of existing procedures to identify "drift" away from the standard. As an example, if employees report that they perform work they do not know how to safely perform, an organization may be a prime candidate for a loss.

On the liability and environmental protection



categories, the District has implemented best practices to train on emergency response, and discuss potential hazards when performing complex or infrequent tasks. This year during a pump station bypass exercise, the discharge hose ruptured. If the hose had failed in a real event, the result could have been a sewage spill into the environment. These types of proactive testing and drills are what the SHELL award encourages and recognizes.

At the awards ceremony, the award judges asked how long it took to fill out the 17 page award application; General Manager Warner replied that it took three years. He went on to explain that three years ago, District staff used the application to audit its practices and identify areas for improvement. Over the two following years, staff implemented new policies, procedures,

*Continued on page 4*