Oro Loma Sanitary District Wins State Collection System of the Year Award!

Earlier this year, Oro Loma was awarded the CWEA Award for the San Francisco Bay Collection System of the Year. Winners from the 19 regions in the State then advanced to the statewide competition. After undergoing an inspection and judging process, Oro Loma was awarded the statewide award. Oro Loma is the only four-time state winner in history. The District won the award previously in 2000, 2005, and 2010.

The District’s application highlighted the District’s safe work practices, high reliability, and productivity. The entire District has worked for nearly 7 years without a lost time injury. The collections crew undergoes continual safety training. In 2013, the District operated without a single overflow. Oro Loma is also a leader in productivity. In 2013, it cleaned 2,000,000 feet of sewer pipes. This is the equivalent of cleaning every pipe in the District every 9 months.

The award also reflects the contributions of the maintenance department, engineering, and administrative support staff. The maintenance department operates and maintains the District’s 14 lift stations and keeps the collections vehicles running. Engineering is tasked with repairing or replacing pipes identified for repair during video inspections of the system by the collections crews. Finally, administrative support staff field calls from the public and route them to the field in a timely manner. The award reflects contributions from the entire District.

Oro Loma achieved this high honor because of its drive to be the best, the ability to work together as a team, and willingness to practice, practice, practice to become the best it can be.
Supervisor Miley Awards District for Its Safe Drug Disposal Partnership

Prescription and over-the-counter medications are an important part of our lives. But how do you get rid of prescriptions that have expired or were never taken?

Flushing medications down the toilet or putting them in the trash can cause serious environmental harm. Sewage treatment systems are not specifically engineered to remove pharmaceuticals, and those drugs can pass intact into waterways. Pharmaceuticals disposed of in the trash end up in landfills where they pose a threat to underlying groundwater. Traces of popular heart medications, anti-depressants, antibiotics, cholesterol-lowering drugs, chemotherapy drugs, veterinary drugs, and hormones are turning up in San Francisco Bay.

The best way to limit the amount of these potentially hazardous drugs in our water is to bring unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a Household Hazardous Waste site in Oakland, Hayward, or Livermore, or to a community collection location. Be sure to remove your name and identifying information from all medicine labels. Controlled substances are not accepted. For information on how to safely dispose of controlled substances, email HHW@acgov.org.

Oro Loma partners with the community in the collection of non-controlled pharmaceuticals. The following are three local drop-off sites for unwanted medications:

1. San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E. 14th St., San Leandro, (510) 577-7990
2. Davis Street Family Resource Center, 3081 Teagarden St., San Leandro, (510) 347-4620
3. Medical Arts Pharmacy, 13847 E. 14th St., #103, San Leandro, (510) 347-4620

On August 18, 2014, the Alameda County MEDS Coalition Safe Drug Disposal Committee recognized the owner of Medical Arts Pharmacy, Mr. Roland Cong, with an award for his successful participation in the program. Oro Loma Industrial Waste Inspector Rodney Smith, who spearheaded the collection effort, was on hand to receive the award on behalf of Mr. Cong, who was unavailable.

Recycling in Oro Loma is easy! You just need to know the RIGHT way to do it.

Learn the RIGHT way to recycle in Oro Loma. Then show us what you’ve learned. You could win a cash prize for yourself and your school in the Oro Loma/Waste Management 2015 Earth Day Poster Contest!

The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in the Oro Loma Sanitary District attending a school that is serviced for recycling by Waste Management.

Here are some things you need to know:

1. Recycling carts are emptied every other week. Check your recycling schedule to find your week.
2. You can get a bigger recycling cart or even an additional one for free by calling Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.
3. Recycle old cell phones and batteries by placing them in separate zipped plastic bags and putting the bags ON TOP of the recycling cart.
4. Green waste carts are emptied every week.
5. Food scraps and food-soiled paper go into the green waste cart along with yard waste.
6. Up to two gallons of used motor oil and used motor oil filters can be recycled every week by putting them into special containers and setting them out next to the garbage cart. Call (510) 613-8710 for your free motor oil recycling jugs.

To see all the things you can recycle in Oro Loma and the RIGHT way to recycle them, visit the District website at www.oroloma.org. Look under “Residential Garbage & Recycling.”
Food scrap recycling was introduced in Oro Loma in June 2009. At that time, compostables, which includes food scraps and food-soiled paper, accounted for 49% of the trash collected in Alameda County. County-wide, the figure for compostables in the trash is now down to 32%. The District’s average is even better. In Oro Loma, only 20% of trash consists of compostibles. Great job!

By recycling food scraps, you free up space in the landfill and provide a resource that can be turned into rich compost for agriculture and landscaping. And it’s easy! Just collect scraps in your small green pail, or in a cardboard milk or takeout container, then transfer them to your green waste cart. Green waste carts are serviced weekly.

Food scraps include:
- Fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry, bones, seafood, egg shells, cheese, bread, beans, rice, pasta, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters, food-soiled paper and cardboard containers, paper plates, pizza boxes.

Do not include:
- Plastic, glass, metal, Styrofoam, liquids, kitty litter, animal waste.

Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 with questions.
Spotlight on Excellence

Oro Loma welcomes three new employees.

Glen Grimsley
Glen Grimsley is the District’s newest Collection System Worker. He grew up and lives in Livermore and attended Las Positas college, where he completed coursework in welding and automotive maintenance. Most recently, he worked with Monterey Mechanical as a pipe-fitter on the new Kaiser hospital in San Leandro. Glen’s goals include obtaining further training for a career in the collections/wastewater world.

Gene McCutcheon
Gene McCutcheon is Oro Loma’s newest Plant Operator II. Gene joins the District after a 30-year career with the City of San Francisco and a more recent experience at the Hayward WWTP. At the City of San Francisco, Gene worked at several treatment plants including the Presidio, SF Airport, Southeast, and the Oceanside site. He also led several significant plant expansions in the Presidio and SF Airport Locations.

Jeff Hansen
Jeff Hansen is the District’s newest Mechanic II. Jeff was employed at Peterson Power Systems in San Leandro for the last 24 years. He was a truck shop mechanic and commercial engine mechanic for the company. He has extensive experience with Caterpillar engines, and recently worked on Waukesha gas engines at the Richmond Landfill and Delta Diablo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Recycle Your Green Holiday Tree

- January 5-16, 2015.
- Green trees only.
- Trees 6 ft. and under, or trees cut into lengths 6 ft. or under.
- NO flocking, tinsel, ornaments, tree stands, or nails. (Cut up flocked trees and place in the garbage.)
- Place green trees next to your green waste cart on your regular collection day.
- Bulky pickup is suspended during the holiday tree pickup period.
- After January 16, 2015, green trees may be cut up and placed in the green waste cart for pickup.

For further information, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION CORNER

Are your drains slow? Is sewage backing up into your home? Is water (or worse) coming out of a manhole or sewer cleanout?

If you notice any of these things, immediately call Oro Loma at (510) 276-4700, any time, day or night, seven days a week. We’ll send a crew to investigate at no cost to you.

Look for the Wastewater Collection Corner in future issues of Oro Loma News for sewer backups prevention tips.