



ORO LOMA NEWS

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(510) 276-4700

www.roloma.org

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Experimental Levee Takes Root

On April 9, 2015, the first of 70,000 native wetland plants and reeds grown in greenhouses all over the Bay Area were transplanted into an outdoor planting area, where they will grow until ready to be planted into the District's new experimental levee. The levee, and the wetland basin behind it, are designed to mimic nature's ability to filter wastewater and protect the shoreline. Partners in the project include UC Berkeley, Save the Bay, and others.

The first stage of the \$9.1M project is set to be completed in fall 2015, and the entire project will take about two years to finish.

Once completed, the levee will expand the marshland near the District's treatment facility at the end of Grant Avenue. The slope will be made of mud and native plants and will further filter wastewater that has already been treated at the plant.

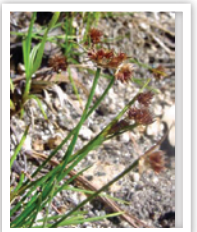
The project also incorporates an eight-million gallon holding basin with a freshwater wetland treatment system.

If successful, the project will advance the science related to sea level rise response. The concept could be applied to hundreds of miles of bay shoreline, helping to protect the Bay Area against rising sea levels and extremes of future weather.

In addition, the project has the potential to improve water quality in the Bay, while establishing a new habitat on the bay edge. The created habitat is important because it provides an upland refuge from rising seas.

Although the levee won't look like much more than a grassy hill when viewed from the nearby Bay Trail, it will significantly improve wastewater treatment at Oro Loma.

"It's exciting because it works from both an engineering and environmental standpoint," says Oro Loma General Manager Jason Warner.



Brown-headed rush, wild sedge, and western golden rod are three species to be planted on the District's experimental levee



l. to r. Mike Connor, EBDA; Kevin O'Toole, Whitley Burchett; Mark Lindley, Environmental Science Associates; Bill Halsted, OLSD; Bruce Wolfe, SF Bay Water Quality Control Board; Jason Warner, OLSD; Roland Williams, CVSD; Kris Decker, OLSD; Jeremy Lowe, SF Estuary Institute



2015 Poster Contest Winners Announced

Winners of the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2015 Poster Contest were announced on Earth Day, April 22. The theme of the 2015 contest was “Recycle **RIGHT** in Oro Loma.” Over 1,800 entries were received. Choosing winners is always difficult. This year was particularly difficult as we received so many wonderfully imaginative entries.

Grade groups and prizes in this, the District’s 21st annual poster contest, were as follows:

Grade Groups: K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12

Prizes:

Kindergarten:	Recycling Star (5)	\$100
Grade Groups 1-12:	First Place (1)	\$700
	Second Place (1)	\$500
	Third Place (1)	\$300
	Honorable Mention (2)	\$150
	Certificates of Merit (10)	\$ 25

The names of all winners were posted on the District’s website, www.oroloma.org, on April 22. Although students who won a First through Honorable Mention prize found out they had won one of those prizes, they will not know until the awards ceremony on May 27 which prize they won. Their names were listed in alphabetical order on April 22. Certificate of Merit recipients knew on April 22 that they won that prize.

After the awards ceremony, a complete list of winners and their prizes will be posted, along with links to their posters.

At the awards ceremony, matching cash prizes will be presented to the schools of the Recycling Stars and First, Second, Third Place and Honorable Mention winners in grades 1-12. Schools that submitted eligible entries but had no winners will receive \$100 Participation Awards.



Judges in the annual Oro Loma/Waste Management Poster Contest include representatives from Oro Loma and Waste Management, and design professionals.

Think before You Flush

Despite manufacturers’ claims, those “flushable” personal hygiene wipes that are so popular do not belong in the sewer system. Unlike conventional toilet paper, these wipes do not break down in water. After being flushed, the wipes clump into tangled masses that can clog a home’s internal plumbing and the private sewer line (the lateral) that connects to the District’s sewer main. A clogged lateral can be very messy and expensive to correct. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of clearing their laterals. In the event of a clogged lateral, homeowners are asked to call Oro Loma as soon as the plumber leaves to make sure the blockage has been completely removed. Oro Loma’s 24/7 phone number is (510) 276-4700.



In the Trash NOT in the Toilet

Clogs that reach the District’s sewer main can cause wastewater to overflow out of manholes and into streets and nearby storm drains and creeks. Such overflows threaten the health and safety of the community and the environment.

At the wastewater treatment plant, intact wipes collect on screens and get caught in gears and pumps.

“Flushable” wipes belong in the trash, not in the toilet.

Here are some other things that belong in the trash, not in the toilet: makeup pads; cleaning wipes; hair; bandages; latex products; dental floss; kitty litter (please bag kitty litter before disposing in the trash); diapers; cotton swabs; hygiene products; baby wipes; whitening strips and their wrappers.



Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Oro Loma Sanitary District

Oro Loma Sanitary District received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF), in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

The Special District Leadership Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

"This award is a testament to Oro Loma Sanitary District's longstanding commitment to open government," said Tim Becker, Board President. "Many of the requirements have been in place for years prior to the guidelines published by SDLF. The entire staff is to be commended for seeking out best industry practices and implementing them here at the District. Achieving high standards of transparency and managing the public's infrastructure well is a key to maintaining public trust."

To earn the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports with the State Controller in a timely manner. Oro Loma also fulfilled fifteen website requirements, including providing readily available information to the public—Board agendas, minutes, district budgets and financial audits.



No "Biodegradable" Food Scrap Bags

"Biodegradable" bags sold for use in collecting food scraps are made from potato or corn, which is readily biodegradable. However, the polymers used to bind the bag do not decompose within the time and temperature conditions under which Oro Loma's green waste is composted. These bags must be picked out manually from the food scraps that Waste Management collects, and discarded as trash.

If you wish to line your green pail before adding kitchen scraps, use a paper bag or folded newspaper. You may also use an empty milk carton or take-out container to collect your scraps before placing them into your green cart.

Thank you for making the Oro Loma food scrap recycling program such a success!



WASTEWATER COLLECTION CORNER

Wastewater that overflows out of a manhole is a safety and environmental emergency in which every minute counts. If you see, or suspect you see, a spill in the public right-of-way, immediately note the time and call Oro Loma at **(510) 276-4700**. That number is serviced 24-hours a day, seven days a week by a real person. An emergency crew will be sent out at once to investigate. Do not call the City, the sheriff, or the fire department, as that will only delay response time.

Oro Loma appreciates your cooperation in this important matter.



Oro Loma Sanitary District
2655 Grant Avenue
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PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND CA
PERMIT NO. 544

Experimental
Levee to Help
Protect the
Bay



Printed on recycled paper

Important Phone Numbers to Keep Handy

Oro Loma Sanitary District Office and
24/7 Emergency Response..... (510) 276-4700
Waste Management (510) 613-8710

Alameda County Recycling Hotline .. (877) STOPWASTE
Alameda County
Household Hazardous Waste (800) 606-6606

Spotlight on Excellence

RETIRED



Dale Hammerel

On May 26, 2015 Dale Hammerel will retire after more than 24 years with the District.

Dale joined Oro Loma Sanitary District in 1990 as a Mechanic I. Six months later, he was promoted to Mechanic II, the position he has held ever since.

Dale's arrival at the District was timed well with a significant upgrade to the plant's cogeneration system. The heart of the system is two digester gas-fired Waukesha Engines. Dale learned about the operation and maintenance of the engines and related generator and heat recovery systems while under construction. Afterward, he and another long-tenured mechanic took ownership of the system. Since then, the two digester gas engines have had the highest uptime among the existing fleet of 26 engines in the Bay Area.

The reliable operation of the cogeneration engines has contributed greatly to the District's ability to generate all its electrical and process heating needs.

While the Cogeneration System demanded significant time, Dale contributed to the plant's refinement and maintenance excellence in many other ways. He was part of a team of mechanics responsible for maintenance of the District's treatment unit, lift stations, and vehicles. Dale lived the "Oro Loma way" every day. He improved everything he touched. He documented best practices, key vendors, or sought to improve materials to increase the reliability of the equipment he serviced, all while never spending more than absolutely necessary. He leaves the District better than he found it.

Now that he is retired, Dale has the opportunity to pursue a longtime dream of living in the Montana wilderness, where he has constructed a shop to continue his passion for working on cars and off-road vehicles. Dale has served the District and the community well. We wish him the best in his new pursuit.

RETIRED



Glenn Bachelder

Glenn Bachelder retired on February 9, 2015 after 37 years with the District.

Oro Loma's wastewater treatment plant produces approximately 11 tons of processed, nutrient-rich wastewater solids each day. Before these biosolids can be used as alternative cover at the Altamont landfill, they must be spread out, dried, and stockpiled. This

is where "The Pond Boss," as Glenn was affectionately known to his coworkers, came in. Glenn was the one responsible for tilling, wind rowing, and stockpiling the biosolids. Doing this required an in-depth knowledge of the techniques for working in the drying ponds, as well as skill in operating heavy equipment. Glenn gladly shared his knowledge, and as a certified heavy equipment instructor, he mentored a new generation of plant operators who will now be able to step in and take his place, safely using the backhoe, front loader, and D5 diesel tractor, as he taught them.

Glenn was hired by the District in 1978 as an Operator I. Two years later he was promoted to Operator II, a position that he held for the next 35 years.

With his retirement, Glenn finally has a chance to relax and reflect on the many lives he influenced during his many years with the District.