



# ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

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

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## Experimental Levee Takes Shape

On April 9, 2015, the first of 70,000 native wetland plants and reeds were transplanted from individual containers into a nursery located on the treatment plant site. Over the following months, Save-the-Bay and its team of staff and volunteers have continued to nurture the seedlings in the outdoor nursery, which is adjacent to the experimental levee. This fall, Save-the-Bay will start planting the levee with those seedlings.

Unlike traditional levees, Oro Loma's experimental levee rises at a 1 to 30 slope rather than a traditional slope of 1 to 1. The levee will be made of a specialized mix of sand, soil, and organics and native plants and will further polish the treated water.

The experimental levee, and an eight-million gallon holding basin behind it, will provide additional water-holding capacity during periods of heavy rains. The project is 40% complete. The first phase of the \$9.1M project was completed

on June 30, 2015. The entire project is scheduled to take about two years to finish. Continued excavation to subgrade, installation of geotextile stabilizing fabric, and importation of approximately 17,000 cubic yards of fill, which gets mixed with existing onsite material, are all underway.

In addition to protecting the shoreline, the project has the potential to improve water quality in the Bay, while establishing a new habitat on the water's edge. Plants chosen for the project can remove excess nutrients from treated wastewater, reducing the potential for harmful algae blooms. The created habitat is important because it provides an upland refuge from rising seas.

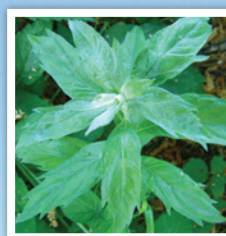
An open house is scheduled for November 14, 2015, as Save-the-Bay continues to transplant seedlings onto the levee. The public is invited to attend. Watch the District's website, [www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org), for details.



*Construction continues*



*Seedbeds*



*A native plant (Mugwort)*



*Seedling in nursery*



*A fleet of earth moving equipment mixes onsite material with imported fill.*